



Pittsfield (MA) Parks Department Scrapbooks

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**Pittsfield Parks
Department
Scrapbook**

1995

Don't cloud the Kirvin Park issue

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

I would like to respond to the Feb. 1 letter of John Pannozzo. The issue with the closing of the inner gate at Kirvin Park is not denying use of the park to the handicapped; but it is a safety issue. When a building becomes unsafe, it is condemned. When a road becomes hazardous, it is closed. When a remote area of a park becomes unsafe, it should be closed. It is closed to all, not just the handicapped or the "wealthy neighbors."

Let's talk about accessibility. The outer gate of the park is unlocked. There is parking available within the safe area of the park for more than 30 vehicles. This is the area where the playground, soccer field and softball fields are located. Anyone can enter a condemned building. Anyone can drive onto a blockaded road. Anyone can walk an unsafe area of a park, but that does not mean it has to be made accessible.

We reside near Kirvin Park. We have witnessed the keg parties, the drug deals, and even have dealt with our house being robbed as we slept. The robbers parked in a remote area of the park in question. We know this because we

Look at the substance of Arlos' argument

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

I wish to respond to the letter by Robert B. Dillon of Feb. 3. In his diatribe against City Councilor Peter Arlos, Mr. Dillon is more concerned with the surface than he is with the substance. He cares more for how Mr. Arlos delivers his words than with the content of the words themselves.

Apparently he is so worried about the Arlos manner that he fails to see that the city erected a barrier at Kirvin Park where none existed before and that the barrier deprives some special-needs people, who incidentally are taxpayers too, of full use of the park. Apparently he is willing to let a few vandals deprive us of full access to the entire park — not only the special-needs people, but all of us.

I attend Pittsfield City Council meetings regularly, and I am not so overwhelmed by the image-makers that I have lost sight of the fact that Mr. Arlos' arguments are more important than how he holds his fingers and how loud his voice may be.

MICHAEL G. HOFFSTETTER
26-C Highview Drive
Pittsfield, Feb. 6, 1995 2-14-95

Equal access for the disabled

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

The Eagle's concern is misplaced. The disabled don't want special provisions so that they can use Kirvin Park [In Brief, Jan. 26]. They just want as much attention to their needs as the city is giving to the people who complain about vandalism in the park. Disabled people just don't believe that they should be second-class citizens or be sacrificed for the needs of people who live in wealthy neighborhoods.

The Eagle forgets that alternatives to the gate at the park were proposed and rejected. Added police patrols were suggested and ignored. Closing for only part of the day was also suggested. If The

followed a trail of our belongings up over the hill. All of the issues regarding police patrol and locking the gate at dusk were addressed at an open meeting last summer at the Parks Department and were dismissed for good reason. The issues were discussed and the decision for closing the remote area in question was made for the good of the majority who enjoy the park.

I found Mr. Pannozzo's comments regarding "second-class citizens" and "wealthy neighborhoods" offensive. I believe he owes an apology to the citizens of the city's southeast section, whose interest is only for the good of everyone using the park, and to the handicapped, who are becoming unwilling pawns.

JEAN GRUNIN
Pittsfield, Feb. 3, 1995 2-9-95

Reilly to review managers' work

PITTSFIELD — Mayor Edward M. Reilly is writing job evaluations for all his senior department managers and calling each one in for a meeting to discuss the individual's performance.

How each manager fares during the meeting will determine whether he or she will receive a salary increase in the coming year.

Raises will range between 0 and 4 percent, Reilly said, and for the first time will be based on merit and not on how long someone has been on the job.

The merit-based method of salary increases was devised by Reilly late last year and approved by the City Council. The new procedure corrects what the mayor had called inequities in the existing pay schedule for department heads and will provide him with the power to reward excellent work.

He said the procedure, which is proving very time-consuming, forces the mayor to function as a true administrator and not simply as the head of city government."

The meetings also will provide an opportunity for him to review a department manager's work and set goals for the coming year. They will also give the employees a forum to point out accomplishments that the mayor may be unaware of, he said.

Reilly will review how each manager gets along with him, the City Council, the public and the manager's own staff. 2-23-95

A walk in the park

There are arguments for and against the gate blocking vehicle access to much of Kirvin Park in Pittsfield, but there has to be a better solution for accommodating would-be users of the park who are disabled than by filing a complaint under the Americans With Disabilities Act. Despite the gate, which was closed to curb vandalism and other antisocial activities in the park, there are openings wide enough for wheelchair access to the full park. If a disabled person still finds it difficult to enjoy Kirvin, other, special provisions could be made, but it should be noted that the gate-closing also restricts access by non-disabled people who are simply too lazy to walk far. To see an ADA violation in this situation would be tantamount to saying that the state violates the law because it does not provide an elevator to the top of Mount Everett in South County.

5/16/95
City extends search for summer lifeguards

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Parks and Recreation has announced the extension of the deadline for applications for lifeguards.

Lifeguards will be paid per hour and will work from 10 to 6 daily.

Applications may be picked up at the personnel office in City Hall or at the Department of Parks & Recreation, 874 North St. Further information is available from the department at 499-9343.

Arlos lashes board over Kirvin access

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A 1993 decision by the Board of Park Commissioners to limit access to a city park served as the basis for a wide-ranging and emotional debate before the City Council last night, with one councilor saying the decision violates the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos said a city resident plans to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice. He also contends that the city was negligent in the matter, sending a disabled man "on a fool's errand."

When the issue first surfaced last fall, it appeared fairly simple.

The Board of Park Commissioners had voted in 1993 to lock the inner gate of Kirvin Park to protect the premises from increasing acts of vandalism and other forms of abusive behavior.

In October 1994, William Stickney of 124 McIntosh Drive claimed the board's decision prevented him from gaining access to a public park, which he can no longer drive into.

He took his case to the City Council, which asked the Park Commissioners to reconsider their decision. They did but maintained the closing just the same.

Calls it discrimination

Since then, Stickney has decided to file a complaint under Title 2 of the Americans With Disabilities Act, saying the park barrier is a form of discrimination.

According to Arlos, Stickney asked for a complaint form from the city's personnel director, who said that they were not available in the office and that he would

'I don't know why we are beating this to death,' Kaplan said.

send one to Stickney.

At the time, the personnel director was part-time consultant Thomas Guerino, whom Arlos called a "phony baloney who took the city for \$30,000." That's the amount of money that the city paid him for his services.

The personnel director serves as the city's administrator of the disabilities law, and having the forms on hand is fundamental to the job, Arlos said.

After three weeks, Stickney requested the form again. Arlos said William Semanis, Pittsfield's brand-new personnel director, advised Stickney to write to Washington, D.C., for the appropriate complaint form.

Arlos railed against the "run-around" given a disabled man by City Hall personnel, who sent Stickney on a "fool's errand." Arlos, who serves as the county's administrator for the law, has since provided Stickney with the correct forms.

At last night's meeting, Arlos appeared to heap equal scorn on the personnel director and the Board of Park Commissioners, saying they lacked a sense of compassion and justice.

Although several members of the City Council appeared to

ARLOS, continued on B4

Park Square vigil will highlight violence

The city's youth commission will sponsor a candlelight vigil at Park Square from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 25 to focus attention on violence prevention.

The vigil will feature songs, essays and poems written by teens concerning issues of violence. Commission chair Deborah Sadowsky said members of the Schenectady, N.Y., Girls Incorporated would perform "interactive theater." The essays and poems will focus on losses teens have suffered due to violence. "I expect it could be very emotional," Sadowsky said. 5/18/95

Park open, case closed 6/11/95

Now that the Pittsfield Park Commission has voted unanimously to open the gate to the interior road at Kirvin Park during daylight hours so that the handicapped and others can make better use of it, this should bring to an end the complaint against the city for alleged violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The intent of the original decision to close the gate 24 hours a day was not to discriminate against anyone but was done to keep out the after-hours troublemakers who were bothering the park's neighbors. The compromise of night-time closure should eliminate any need for an ADA case and spare the city the legal bills that it would cause.

Arlos lashes board over access issue

■ ARLOS, from B1

sympathize with Stickney's plight, none were happy with the wording of Arlos' petition, which called for the Council to support "action against the Parks Commission under the Americans With Disabilities Act..."

The commissioners are volunteers who conducted public hearings on the matter and made their decisions carefully, said some councilors. Taking "action" against the board appeared excessive, they said.

At this point, Councilor at large Gerald S. Doyle Jr. attempted to conclude the debate.

"Mr. Stickney now has the proper paperwork," Doyle said. "Let the chips fall where they may. If the Park Commission is wrong, they'll have to open the park."

An earlier motion by Councilor James M. Boyle of Ward 6 to have the matter referred to the city solicitor failed. The vote on Arlos' motion also failed, with only Boyle and Arlos in support.

Lake fees may be the best solution

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

It is so sad to see the beauty around us destroyed by people who just don't care or appreciate any of it.

I think Joseph Guzzo and Ben J. Kaplan have a wonderful solution and I for one would be very happy to pay an admission fee to Onota Lake [Eagle, June 22].

Pontoosuc Lake is just as in need of help.

We all need to take pride in where we live and care about what's happening, and if paying a fee for admission gets us on the right track then I'm happy to do it.

LENORE ESPOSITO
750 Pecks Road
Pittsfield, June 22, 1995

Grandstanding on park-access issue

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

I found the Jan. 25 Eagle headline "Arlos lashes board over Kirvin access" to be upsetting. Why the spectacular attention given to this person? When the issue was considered at the Board of Park Commissioners' December meeting, he rose and addressed the board as if he were Caesar. The hearing continued for more than two hours, and all but a few of those present favored limited access to the park. At the conclusion of the hearing he was nowhere to be found. So great was his interest that he had departed shortly after he had spoken. Reading The Eagle the next day one would have thought that he had carried the meeting.

Why does he receive more print in The Eagle than he deserves?

ROBERT B. DILLON Jr.
1015 Williams St.
Pittsfield, Jan. 25, 1995

2/3/95

Subsequent to this public hear-

ing and in response to the wishes expressed by the majority of those citizens present, the board elected to continue to limit access to Kirvin Park.

He now resurfaces the issue in a loud and boisterous manner. He points his finger at those who do not see it his way, belittles persons not present to defend themselves and consumes the Council's time over a matter that may soon be in the hands of a federal agency. Any public servant with a sincere desire to resolve this matter would seek to do so in a quiet and professional manner, rather than in a public exhibition.

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2/3/95

ROBERT B. DILLON Jr.
1015 Williams St.
Pittsfield, Jan. 25, 1995

2/3/95

of the city's 1995-1996 budget.

The City of Pittsfield is an EEO/AA/M/F/V and encourages applicants from women, minorities, Vietnam era veterans, and the disabled communities.

CITY OF PITTSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION WETLAND PROTECTION ACT PUBLICHEARING

Subject: Notice of Intent to remove beaver dam from Onota Brook off Wahconah Street (H11-1-2 and G11-5-1). Work will effect the buffer zone bank, bordering vegetated wetland and land under water. Applicant is Department of Parks and Recreation and owner is the City of Pittsfield.

The Pittsfield Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing under the provision of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, in Room 203, City Hall at 7:00pm on Thursday, 16 November 1995.

DOROTHY MARA, Chairperson

11/9/95

Park open, case closed 6/11/95

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11/9/95

The Pittsfield Gazette
PO Box 2236
Pittsfield, Mass 01202
141 North Street

OPINIONS



Clarifying the Kirvin Park issue

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

I cannot help but respond to The Eagle's In Brief item of Jan. 26 concerning Kirvin Park because it was so unnecessarily sarcastic and flippant. I also want to clarify my own position. The Eagle is right about one thing, however; the issue should be able to be settled locally.

I have been trying to do exactly that since April 1994. When the snow and ice cleared from Kirvin Park last spring I noticed the gate across the access road was still locked at all times. I called the Parks Department and my councilman to ask why. Both my councilman and I were told it would be open from dawn to dusk when the fields were dry. May came and went and the gate was still locked. I again called my councilman; he was told they were working on the fields. In June or July I was told by someone I met in the park that the decision was made to keep the gate locked on a permanent basis. I once again went to my ward councilor to ask who made the decision and why. It turned out that the Parks Commission, without a public hearing, made the decision based upon complaints by abutters. I felt then the decision wrong; I still feel it is. Residents of Pittsfield are being denied full use of a public park because a small group used their influence on the members of the Parks Commission. This is only park in the city where such extreme measures have been taken.

I let the matter drop until late summer when it became obvious the Pittsfield High soccer teams were given a key to the gate so that fans, parents and others could drive into the park. I asked, to no avail, why the baseball, rugby and softball teams, or other interested groups or individuals, were not

afforded the same courtesy. I wrote the mayor, the at-large members of the City Council and the chairman of the Parks Commission asking that the decision be reconsidered. Finally in December, the Parks Commission held a public hearing. Three councilors and at least one abutter put forth ideas that would enable the park to be fully used by interested groups and individuals without compromising the very real concern about vandalism and rowdyism. From what was said at the meeting and from what I was told, the mayor, the police chief, and most city councilors were in favor of working out a compromise. The Parks Commission reaffirmed its original decision.

* * * *

Still believing the decision to be wrong, I appealed the decision to the mayor. He told me he did not have the authority to overrule the commission; nor did the City Council. Seeing no other appeal process, I sought legal counsel. Because I am handicapped, it was suggested to pursue the issue using the American with Disabilities Act. That is what I am doing.

I still believe the issue is wider than lack of access for the handicapped. The Parks Commission has treated one park differently than the others — blocking access to many in the community while giving special access and preferred treatment to special-interest and influential groups. This is wrong and a misuse of public land.

Finally, while I am handicapped, I am not confined to a wheelchair. I am not lazy. I have tried to walk the access road when the front fields were being used. I have difficulty doing so, as would people with heart conditions, respiratory problems and other medical con-

ditions — some obvious, some hidden. Most people in wheelchairs would be taking their life in their hands trying to reach the basketball court of back fields. I feel this is why the park was built with an access road and second parking lot at the rear of the park.

No one, including myself, has asked for elevators, escalators, ski lifts or other ridiculous considerations. All I have asked for from the beginning is the access road be opened from dawn to dusk as it is in other parks. In that way I can use the park without interfering with others pursuing their own activities. I believe as a resident and taxpayer I and others have a right to do so.

WILLIAM STICKNEY
Pittsfield, Jan. 27, 1995

City seeking 3/27/95 summer workers

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Parks and Recreation has announced that it is accepting applications for summer programs for regular playgrounds, special playgrounds, lifeguards, umpires (baseball and softball), park security officers and maintenance men.

Applications are available at the Personnel Department, City Hall, 70 Allen St., or at the Department of Parks and Recreation at 874 North St., Monday through Friday.

The applications are to be turned in no later than Friday, May 5, so that interviews can be scheduled.

Employment is contingent on the approval of the city's 1995-96 budget, the announcement said.

Clean 'Burbank Dump'

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

Pittsfield has been trying for years to draw more tourists to the city with its natural beauty. Well one only has to drive to "Burbank Dump," ah, Burbank Park, to see why people don't come back.

This spring the city cleaned out the picnic area there so that people could enjoy one of Pittsfield's jewels. Well, since this spring there has been a very large brush pile right in the middle of the

Board taking another look 3/17/95 at Kirvin Park access issue

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The city's Park Commission agreed last night to re-examine the issue of access to Kirvin Park after a city councilor charged that the commission is violating the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Last fall, the commission voted to keep an inner gate at the park locked 24 hours a day. At the public hearing that preceded the vote, abutters of the 225-acre park contended that some drivers of all-terrain and other vehicles were abusing the park by littering, making noise at late hours and committing acts of vandalism.

However, some users of the park and Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos argue that keeping vehicles out of the park makes it virtually unusable by the physically disabled.

Arlos restated his position last night, and he asked the commission to put in writing its decision concerning keeping the gate locked. Arlos, who also is the county's administrator of the Americans with Disabilities Act, said that a written decision is a necessary element in a formal complaint alleging denial of access.

Such a complaint is being pursued by William Stickney of Pittsfield, who is disabled. Stickney, who accompanied Arlos to last night's meeting, told the commission that while there are ways for wheelchair-users to gain access to the park, none of them comply with the ADA because they do not "lead to a hard surface."

Park Commission Chairman

Anthony G. Massimiano told Arlos that the commission would consult with the city solicitor's office to determine the exact contents of a recent interpretation of the ADA written by Assistant City Solicitor Janet B. Pumphrey.

The interpretation, which was made in connection with Stickney's complaint, states that the city is not in violation of the ADA.

Arlos dismissed the opinion as having been written by "a prejudiced person," an apparent reference to City Solicitor Kathleen Alexander, who lives near the park and who has publicly stated her support of keeping the gate locked 24 hours a day.

Alexander, who had been at another meeting and did not arrive at the Park Commission meeting until after Arlos and Stickney had left, had nothing to do with preparation of the interpretation and has not read it, Massimiano said.

The dog, the park and downtown

It is probably symptomatic of the City Council's feeling of helplessness with regard to a truly serious problem, the decline of retailing on North Street, that it is spending time on two marginal issues: the custody of the dog Barney and the question of whether Kirvin Park should be open at all to vehicular traffic. As far as the park is concerned, why not simply adopt the mayor's compromise proposal of closing the access road each night and opening it each morning? That's surely a less irrevocable step than tearing up the road and seeding it with grass.

6-13-95

Let police handle Kirvin Park gate

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

While I support Mayor Reilly's solution to the Kirvin Park Saga, it seems that it would be sounder, both economically and practically, to have the police officers on patrol in the area do the locking and unlocking, since they will likely often have to be called to clear the park of vehicles before it can be locked.

For several years, the Burbank Park gate at Onota Lake was locked by park police officers, and when they were re-classified as security officers and their hours and numbers greatly reduced, the duty was taken over by the Police Department, so this would not set a precedent.

If the mayor wants to put an additional \$15,000 into the park department budget, it would be better used to staff another playground and improve park maintenance. This would be a start toward making the Pittsfield park and playground system the model that it once was.

CHARLES N. NAJIMY
10 Atlantic Ave.
Pittsfield, May 25, 1995

6/13/95

Park priorities 3/16/95

The foresight of community leaders a generation ago provided Pittsfield with an enviable system of parks and other recreational spaces.

In recent years this network of open spaces has suffered from neglect. An era of limited resources and new priorities relegated the parks to second class status.

Many individuals, organizations and businesses have stepped forward to reclaim particular parks. These park saviors have included sports teams, beautification groups and even entire neighborhoods.

The parks still face an uphill battle until a commitment is made to upgrade them where necessary and, in particular, provide the ongoing support necessary for continuing operations.

Beyond the funding and maintenance issues, though, another issue has gradually come to the forefront: Who are the parks for? This is a deceptive question.

Consider a handful of controversies from the past year:

- The city used federal funds to rebuild parks in low income areas. At one park, several neighbors participated in the design and insisted that a fence near a river bed be incorporated in the design. An environmental group wanted the fence eliminated, envisioning the spruced-up park as the first link of a citywide river walk.

Whose views should get priority: the neighbors who live near the park and use it most or the group which purposely takes a broader perspective?

- Another park is the site of vandalism, lewd behavior and noise. Neighbors want the park locked at night to discourage the illicit actions. If the park is locked, when should it be unlocked? Who should have the key?

A resident with a handicap complains that a gate installed at the park limits his access to the facility. Should every park be accessible to everyone? Is it discriminatory if he can not use the park?

- A high school sports team uses a city park for its games. The team and its boosters offer to upgrade the field and help maintain it to a degree that the short-staffed parks department can't equal. But they want to make sure no one else tears up the field they consider their own. Should the field be designated exclusively for their use?

These issues will continue to evolve as the parks grapple between neighborhood and citywide identities — and as organized and recreational uses compete for resources.

What's more important: girls' softball, men's rugby, youth soccer, running paths, picnic areas or kite-flying space? The answers are vexing, particularly as new sports and activities gain popularity.

There has been considerable talk in recent years about revitalizing the parks. It will certainly take money — but it also will require serious thinking about the purpose and priorities of the parks.

The parks are Pittsfield's hidden treasures. Maintaining their value and equitably sharing their lustre are essential components for ensuring the community's quality of life.

Paula Virgilio appointed acting principal

Paula Virgilio will serve as acting principal of Morningside Community School for four months beginning April 1.

Virgilio, currently school-neighborhood coordinator at Morningside, will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of longtime principal James Tynan. She will earn a prorated \$54,000 salary.

Chad Mazza will fill Virgilio's coordinator position on an acting basis during the four month period.

Superintendent John Kreiger has initiated a search process to fill two elementary school principal vacancies. In addition to Tynan, Francis Kelley retired from Crosby School earlier this year.

3/23/95

parking lot from all this cleaning, an old piece of guard rail thrown into the woods, and piles of concrete pieces dumped there years ago.

If Pittsfield really wants to be proud of itself, it should start polishing the jewels we have before mining for others.

BRUCE E. SPANIOL
89 Partridge Road
Pittsfield, Nov. 10, 1995

11/17/95

City officials fear loss of \$405,000 grant for Burbank Park upgrades

City officials fear that a \$405,000 state grant for Burbank Park could be forfeited due to administrative delays.

Pittsfield's urban self help grant application was tentatively approved last month by the state conservations services office—but the award comes with what community development specialist Bob Mellace termed a "ridiculous" timetable for implementation.

"The good news is we were preselected to receive this \$405,000 grant, which would cover 68 percent of the cost of the project," he said.

"The bad news is that it comes with an impossible timetable for us to meet."

According to Mellace, the state of office wants the city's upgrade plans for the lakefront park completed and fully permitted by June 1, so funding can take place during the current state fiscal year.

"But the Massachusetts procurement laws require at least two to



nated funds—or be sure that the overall grant program will even be funded.

"I'm trying to remain optimistic—this office has been good to us over the years—but you just never know," said Mellace.

Anthony Massimiano, chairman of the parks commission, urged Mellace to do anything possible to ensure the grant. "For the sake of the city possibly losing \$405,000 it seems as though we should do whatever it takes," he said. "We should explore ways to short cut things."

City officials hope to use the monies for driveway, parking area and recreational enhancements at the park.

Mellace said state officials were expected to announce grant approvals in October, but the tentative selections were delayed until February. He has asked that the money be carried over into the next fiscal year.

Mellace said that he has not yet received assurances that the city can get the funds during the next fiscal year. He said Pittsfield could reappear but not be guaranteed the design

three months just to get started, and that's without dealing with the permits," Mellace said. "The dilemma we face is that we just can't meet this timetable."

"Even if we got that done, we can't get the conservation permits approved that quickly," he said. "As I said, I'm trying to remain optimistic while we wait to hear ... but there's no guarantee."

The Pittsfield Gazette, March 9, 1995

Locked park gate gets more scrutiny

The debate over access to Kirvin Park raged anew at Monday's park commission meeting.

City councilor Peter Arlos and resident William Stickney urged the board to reconsider a prior decision to lock the inner gate at the 225-acre site off Williams Street.

The duo restated arguments that the decision violates the Americans With Disabilities Act by limiting park access. Commissioners, who previously sided with pro-gate neighbors concerned over vandalism at the park, will research the issue further but did not promise any action.

"We've been tossing this around," said Arlos. "I would like to have you make a decision ... so the aggrieved person can seek remedy."

Arlos said that Stickney—who has limited mobility—has been unable to use the park due to the gate. The councilor said that a formal written decision will allow Stickney to pursue his complaint with the federal officials responsible for ADA

implementation. Arlos—who identified himself as the county government's ADA coordinator—said that the city modified the park by adding a barrier, thereby bringing the ADA into consideration.

"We will review the opinion of the city solicitor as to whether we are in violation of the ADA," said parks commission chairman Anthony Massimiano.

The chairman said that the solicitor's office had just prepared a memorandum—which he had yet to see—on the matter at the request of the city's commission on disability.

Stickney said he could accept, albeit reluctantly, a full-time barrier. But he said the board has allowed some exceptions—thus creating unequal access.

"You accepted the argument that the Pittsfield High School soccer team needed the gate open," he said. "This is discriminatory."

Massimiano said that he would review the solicitor's opinion and the comments made by Arlos and Stickney. No other commissioners offered any comments.

Following the meeting, the Gazette reviewed the memorandum prepared by Pumphrey. In part the document states: "so long as the gate was closed to all cars and that so long as handicap access was provided, then closing a portion of the park to automobiles does not violate the ADA."

Pumphrey also suggests that the wheelchair access through openings in the gate is sufficiently "stable, firm and slip-resistant."

The memorandum concludes that in terms of access for public properties such as a park system, "federal regulations provide that a program is viewed in its entirety, and a public entity is not required to make each facility accessible if alternative, accessible locations are available."

Parks board considers requests

The parks commission on Monday considered several requests from groups:

• A request from park police—who monitor Burbank Park at Onota Lake during the summer—to modify their hours was tabled. The park police want to work from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. instead of the current 1 to 9 p.m. Representatives said this better corresponds to peak use at the park and would mean less time after dusk when officers feel vulnerable.

• Also tabled was a request from Patricia Spector on behalf of the Okinawan Karate School to use Clapp Park for a family day fundraiser on May 21. The school plans to apply the funds toward airplane tickets for grand karate masters scheduled to lead a local camp in 1997. Commissioners applauded the idea but delayed action pending a legal ruling on technicalities involved in use of the park by a for-profit business.

• The commissioners approved a request for use of Controy Pavilion and adjacent park facilities for regattas planned by Williams College on April 22 and 29. The request still requires conservation commission approval for use of Onota Lake.

B4 — The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, April 10, 1995

Guzzo cites lack of communication by mayor, sheriff

■ GUZZO, from B1

But Mayor Edward M. Reilly said that plans so far aired are very preliminary and highly speculative in nature.

"I have a right to come up with potential uses," he said last night. "Ultimately, when it came to something concrete, I would bring it forward and talk to people. Everything is pure speculation right now."

In addition, Reilly said, the city does not own the Naval Reserve Center, though it hopes to be given the 10-acre site sometime in the future. Until then, the city is limited to discussing the center in non-specific terms, he said.

In any event, Reilly reiterated that both the mayor and the City Council must approve a future use for the site. Thus, the City Council would become a very important part of the process, he said.

Reilly said that acquiring the property takes time. According to federal law, any closed military establishment must be evaluated to serve the homeless. That process has been completed, Reilly

said, though he does not expect word on the availability of the facility for the next six months or so.

Personally, the mayor said, he believes that the best future use for the site would be to centralize the Parks and Recreation's maintenance department. The land was once part of Burbank Park, and Reilly hopes that it can revert back to the parks someday.

In any event, he said, all discussions on the site are premature.

Operating in vacuum

But to Guzzo, communication was overlooked no matter how early the debate began.

"I don't want to sound negative with the sheriff and the mayor," he said. "But they are operating in a vacuum. I represent over 3,700 people. They are going to have to deal with me."

Based on his phone calls, Guzzo said that people living near the Naval Reserve Center would be most inclined to support turning the facility over to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

3.
Guzzo says he was omitted from Naval Reserve talks

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Ward 7 City Councilor Joseph O. Guzzo contacted The Berkshire Eagle yesterday to register his dismay at reading about a number of proposals for the use of the vacant Naval Reserve Center in his ward—proposals that he said he knew nothing about.

City officials have speculated that the facility on Vin Hebert Boulevard may be a possible site to house an overflow of jail prisoners, or the Hibbard Alternative School or as a place to relocate the parks and school maintenance departments.

Respect expected

"I am the councilman in that ward," Guzzo said. "I expect to be treated with respect. . . . I expect to be communicated with. How dare they do that without me."

Ever since word about the possibilities for the site appeared in the newspaper, Guzzo said he has received numerous telephone calls from people in his ward who are either concerned about the proposals or who want more information.

"I expect to be brought into the process—to be brought up to date about all the proposals out there concerning the Naval Reserve site so that I can bring my constituents into the process."

Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano, who advanced the idea of housing the jail overflow at the vacant center at Thursday's School Building Needs Commission meeting, was out of town and could not be reached for comment yesterday.

4/10/95
GUZZO, continued on B4

Kirvin gate controversy still wide open

William Stickney's fight with city officials over a barrier at Kirvin Park continued at Tuesday's council meeting.

Stickney has complained to councilors and the parks commission that a barrier at the park in the southeast sector violates the Americans With Disabilities Act. Following the grievance procedure that he said was provided by William Semarie, the city's personnel director and ADA officer, Stickney formally petitioned the council Tuesday for a public hearing.

Paul Dowd made a motion to file—deny—Stickney's public hearing petition. Peter Arlos said Stickney has been unfairly treated: "This man followed the grievance procedure ... He should have gone directly to the Justice Department."

Arlos said the complaint process has been a "fraud ... If you want to ignore him, he will go through the Justice Department and win."

In response to a query from Angelo Stracuzzi, Stickney said he will pursue a Justice Department complaint if he fails to get the barrier removed. But he said, "I'm trying to settle this at the local level."

Council President Joseph Ryan, Jr. said the council has no power over the parks and questioned whether it should hold a hearing: "We have no authority."

The motion to file failed on a 5-5 vote—with Ben Kaplan absent. Arlos then moved to hold a public hearing—which also failed on a 5-5 vote.

The matter was then tabled. Kaplan, who represents ward 4—home of Kirvin Park—has previously expressed support for keeping the barrier, which neighbors requested due to vandalism.

Stickney argues that the barrier limits access to disabled residents. He has also complained that the parks department has selectively given keys to the gate, specifically to a high school sports team. 7-13-95

Park gate critic will get hearing

William Stickney, who has spent months protesting the erection of a barrier at Kirvin Park, will get a hearing before the city council on May 9.

After considerable debate—and a recess to review parliamentary rules—councilors voted to hear Stickney's complaint, which is based upon fair access provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Two weeks ago councilors were deadlocked in a 5-5 vote when Paul Dowd tried to have Stickney's request filed without action.

On Tuesday, councilor Ben Kaplan—who missed the earlier meeting—attempted the same maneuver as Dowd, seeking to file the request and force a vote without debate.

Peter Arlos, who has championed Stickney's case, successfully fought the motion to move the question. He said Stickney has followed the procedures for filing an ADA grievance—and that the rules disseminated by city officials include a hearing before the council.

"What kind of operation is this?" Arlos asked. "You sent a handicapped person jumping through this hoop and that hoop ... all we're asking for is that we follow the grievance procedure."

Gerald Doyle, Jr. expressed frustration, noting that he sought a compromise to the issue months ago by having a gate that would be locked only at night. The parks commission, which is responsible for Kirvin, opposed that plan.

"This city council has no jurisdiction," said Doyle.

Kaplan said the parks commission has thoroughly debated the issue including at a lengthy hearing last year. He said the commission ruled that neighbors' complaints of vandalism were valid.

James Boyle sought to refer the petition to the parks commission, saying "I'm interested in Mr. Stickney's rights to a public hearing." Fran Marinaro said that would be pointless, that while Stickney has the right to complain, the commission has made its ruling.

"We're in a no-win situation," said Doyle.

As the debate continued, Joe Guzzo sought a decisive vote from the council on whether to have a public hearing: "This is kind of getting to be ridiculous and bizarre ... Let's deal with it."

Doyle agreed: "Let's just do it now."

Following a recess, Boyle's parks commission referral failed 9-2. The motion to file—which was deadlocked two weeks ago—was defeated 6-5. Councilors then voted 9-2—with Kaplan and Dowd opposed—to hold the hearing regarding Stickney's complaints on May 9.

4/27/95

Grunin: Opening Kirvin gate unsafe

PITTSFIELD — Mayor Edward M. Reilly's \$15,000 allocation to the Parks Commission to pay an employee to open and close the city's parks should be used for improvements and maintenance of parks and playgrounds, said Gary Grunin, a candidate for the Ward 4 City Council

"It seems that someone already on the city's payroll should be able to handle this duty without spending taxpayers' dollars," Grunin said in a prepared statement.

Grunin also said that the Council's recent recommendation that the Parks Commission reverse its decision to keep the gate at Kirvin Park locked 24 hours a day "overlooks the real concern of the residents and neighbors, and that is of safety."

"Anyone who has walked through Kirvin Park has seen how deplorable the road is," he said. "Unlocking the gate during the daytime will not necessarily make the park handicap-accessible. Our first priority should be with the safety of the children and citizens using the park. Having cars driving through the park is just an accident waiting to happen."

6-1-95

Naval center attracts interest for 3 uses

By Susan Etkind
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The vacant Naval Reserve Center off Valentine Road has suddenly become a hot property, with a number of officials proposing a range of uses for it.

The issue came to light Thursday night at a meeting of the School Building Needs Commission, when Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano said he was interested in housing an overflow of jail prisoners there.

The sheriff is not the only official to express interest in the 10-acre Reserve property. The Schools Building Needs Commission is considering it as a site for Hibbard Alternative School, and Mayor Edward M. Reilly is thinking about relocating the parks and school maintenance departments there.

Vacant since July

The center was decommissioned in May and vacated in July 1994.

However, before the property can be converted to another use, it must be acquired from the federal government. The mayor said the city is in negotiation with the Department of the Navy and National Park Service. Acquiring the property is a "drawn-out process" that could take six months to a year, he said.

The ultimate decision about what will become of the center — provided the city is able to acquire it — would rest with the City Council and the mayor, Reilly said. The property is zoned for residential use, he said, and was once part of Burbank Park.

Massimiano is looking to relieve severe overcrowding at the jail, which he said Thursday is at 212 percent capacity. On Wednesday, he was forced to move 11 female inmates to a regional correctional facility in Ludlow because there were no beds for males anywhere in the commonwealth, he said.

The Schools Building Needs Commission voted earlier to close Hibbard as an educational institution, and Principal Allen Hoffacker said yesterday that he had expressed interest in the naval center.

"For a short-term facility it would be ideal," he said, adding that one of the most acute needs is for a gymnasium.

Reilly said moving the maintenance

4-8-95

RESERVE, continued on B6

Three uses proposed for naval center

■ RESERVE, from B1

facilities from Springside Park would allow the department to function more efficiently and would open up more parkland for recreational uses.

He said he was willing to consider other uses, however.

The mayor said he knew Massimiano was interested but didn't know the school needs commission was considering the site until he read about it in yesterday's Eagle.

4-8-95

The Pittsfield Gazette, May 11, 1995

Access to Kirvin Park generates strong testimony during hearing

continued from page 1

"We're practical people," said Cavanaugh, "we're ready to talk." "I also want to make clear that I appreciate the efforts of citizens who give of their time to serve the community — but because they do this does not make them infallible."

Stickney cited an opinion from the state office on disabilities that the barrier erected at the park violates the ADA.

He also suggested that opinions written by the assistant city solicitor on the topic failed to fully address ADA issues.

"As you will hear from those with more expertise and experience than I," said Stickney, "wheelchair accessibility at Kirvin Park does not meet ADA standards even with the barrier open."

Kirvin Park neighbors said they understand the access concerns but face problems themselves, mainly unsafe conditions that were present prior to installation of the barrier.

Mixed feelings

"I have mixed feelings about this," said Stephen Ricci, a park abutter. The main problem is opening the park to access by car, he said.

Gary Grunin, also a park neighbor, said Kirvin had been plagued by vandalism and other problems. He said the rights of neighbors — and of children to have a safe play area — are as important as the rights of other groups.

"We must determine the needs of all the citizens," said Grunin.

"We need to make the park accessible," said park neighbor Michael Jacobs, "but opening up the road is not the answer."

Following considerable citizen testimony, councilors discussed the accessibility.

They ultimately voted to refer the information to the city solicitor — as well as the parks commission and city ADA coordinator — in hopes of

a legal determination being rendered prior to the council's May 23 meeting.

Councilor Ben Kaplan — who made the initial referral motion — said the focus of the discussion should be on the exclusion of vehicular traffic. He noted that concessions should be made for access but that neighbors had legitimate safety concerns.

"This is a rights-for-all issue," said Kaplan.

Arlos dissatisfied

Peter Arlos sought a vote from the council on whether the barrier should be removed. "The issue is very simple," said Arlos, "a barrier was erected at a public entry where one did not exist .. the only thing we're asking for is [ADA] compliance."

Angelo Stracuzzi said access for all is important but that safety is also crucial. Saying he personally opposes vehicular access to any park, Stracuzzi said "we have to be concerned about everybody's safety."

Arlos objected strongly — and unsuccessfully — to referring the matter to the solicitor. "You ought to be ashamed of yourselves," he declared, saying Stickney had followed outlined grievance procedures but constantly was delayed.

The vote to refer the issue to the solicitor passed 9-1, prompting grumbling and some heckling from access advocates in the audience.

Following the vote, Stickney expressed disappointment with the referral: "I was hoping it would be resolved tonight or very shortly ... I'm disappointed that this has taken such a long time."



Individuals speaking in opposition to a barrier at Kirvin Park on Tuesday included Linda Trela, Pat Sheely and June Hailer, all of whom utilize wheelchairs.

5/11/95 Park hearing highlights access

City officials have kept a gate at Kirvin Park closed since late 1993 in the face of an access discrimination complaint.

On Tuesday, political floodgates opened in city council chambers as disabled citizens and advocates protested the situation.

"We're not asking for special privileges," said Patricia Sheely of the Berkshire Power advocacy group.

"We only want to be able to use a public park."

The remarks came during a public hearing concerning a grievance filed by William Stickney, who says that a barrier at the entrance of the 225-acre park violates the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Stickney initiated a formal grievance procedure, finally getting a hearing before city councilors — many of whom felt the hearing was inappropriate because the decision is out of

their domain.

"We're not here to discuss the parks commission ruling," noted Council President Joseph Ryan. He stressed that the hearing topic was a "legal question" — specifically Stickney's ADA complaint.

While many Kirvin Park neighbors wearing "Keep It Safe — Keep It Locked" stickers were present and some spoke, Tuesday's hearing was dominated by access proponents.

"I know this procedure has been as difficult for some of you to deal with," said Stickney.

See ACCESS page 19

Arlos hopes to raise city ordinance from tomb

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — While city officials continue to mull over what's to be done about the Kirvin Park situation, Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos has a solution for at least one part of the problem: enforce an existing city ordinance that makes it illegal to drink alcoholic beverages in the park.

The ordinance, which was proposed by Arlos in 1986, makes drinking alcohol in a public park or playground punishable by up to a \$300 fine.

If the guilty party is a minor, the parents would be fined \$50. Arlos maintains that the fines need only be imposed a few times before young revelers get the idea and keep their parties out of public parks.

drinking alcohol, they said.

Since the access gate has been closed, Arlos' rights had been violated by the barrier. After hearing from Stickney and several people for and against the issue, the City Council sent the information along to the city solicitor for evaluation.

He said he is championing the issue for all city residents who are similarly handicapped when it comes to walking long distances, but who would like to participate or watch events at the park.

The issue has bounced back and forth between the Park Commissioners, the city solicitor's office and the City Council.

Earlier this month, the City Council held a public hearing to determine whether Stickney's rights had been violated by the barrier. After hearing from Stickney and several people for and against the issue, the City Council sent the information along to the city solicitor for evaluation.

Janet H. Pumphrey, the assistant city solicitor handling the Kirvin Park issue, is expected to have her opinion ready for tomorrow's City Council meeting.

Arlos said that when Mayor Reilly was Pittsfield's city solicitor, he approved the 1986 ordinance as to form and legality.

"He should now be enforcing it strictly, since public drinking is a widespread problem in the city," Arlos said.

Parks commission votes for Kirvin Park gate plan

The parks commission Monday moved to end the Kirvin Park gate controversy.

The commission unanimously voted to lock the park's inner gate between 7:30 p.m. and 8 a.m. each day. Signs will inform park patrons that vehicles in the park after 7:30 p.m. could be locked in and the police must be called to get the car out.

The new policy goes into effect July 1 although the commission still must decide who will actually close the gate. After November 1, the gate will be closed for the season. The commission will review the policy at that time.

The city council, in response to a grievance issued by William Stickney saying that the barrier at the park's entrance violates the Americans With Disabilities Act, recently appropriated \$15,000 to pay for personnel to open and lock the gate each day.

The parks commission had voted earlier this year to continue a 1993 policy of keeping the gate closed to quash beer parties and vandalism in the area.

Parks commission members believe the new policy will be a reasonable compromise for neighbors and park patrons. Commissioner Anthony Massimiano said that although he generally opposes allowing vehicles in parks, "I'm willing to give this a try."

"I think that it can be accessed on a provisional basis," he said. "I feel pretty strongly that it ought to be closed well before sunset."

Commissioner Clifford Nilan noted that since the gate has been locked neighbors have enjoyed a quieter atmosphere. He said that because of past rowdiness at the park residents had been "literally afraid" to go outside at night. "Everyone has a right to feel safe in their own yard," he said.

Several commission members complained that the parks commission had been unfairly criticized during the gate controversy. "We've taken a lot of heat over this," said chairman Richard Scapin.

Monday's vote occurred after some debate over which park gate should be closed. The outer gate, on Williams Street, opens to a small parking lot outside the actual park; another gate offers access to the park itself.

Commissioner Robert Smith argued that keeping the outer gate open would still allow people to park their cars and carry alcohol into the park after hours.

Other commissioners stated that locking the outer gate would lead to cars parking along Williams street, creating a traffic hazard. Smith ultimately supported locking only the inner gate after receiving assurances of a November review.

City parks director John Marchesi voiced concerns that parks maintenance men would be asked to sweep the park of people each evening. He said that if the authority and safety of the men is not assured "then I will not put a man down there."

Parks commission members will meet later with Marchesi to decide who will lock and unlock the gate and check the park.

The commission also voted to institute a speed 5 mph speed limit for vehicles in the park.

6/22/95

Federal probe launched over Kirvin access

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The U.S. Department of the Interior has launched an investigation into a complaint filed by Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos that the city of Pittsfield is in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act by closing off Kirvin Park to vehicles.

Arlos has argued that the closing has meant that people with disabilities are denied full access to the 225-acre park off Williams Street.

A letter to Arlos from the Department of the Interior confirms that it is looking into the matter. Arlos' complaint was forwarded there from the Department of Justice. In the letter, Melvin C. Fowler, process manager for the Interior Department's Office of Equal Opportunity, states that Arlos' "complaint has been accepted for investigation." The investigation, the letter says, will be conducted by the National Park Service.

In addition, the city councilor has also contacted the Massachusetts Office of Disability, where an attorney seems to agree that the gate at the entrance renders the park unusable by people with disabilities.

Substantial questions

"Although this office [a state agency] is not empowered to enforce the ADA [a federal law], we have had extensive experience in working with the act and regulations," wrote Barbara E. Lybarger, general counsel to the Massachusetts Office on Disability. "It is our opinion that the blocking of the gate raises substantial questions about ADA compliance in Pittsfield. I would strongly suggest that access to the park not be obstructed."

The issue surfaced last year when William Stickney of 124

McIntosh Drive complained that the new barrier erected at the entrance to the park by the Parks Commission prevented him from using the facility.

Stickney is disabled but does not use a wheelchair. He said he is not able to walk the length of the roadway that leads into the back portion of the park. Before the barrier was erected last year, Stickney could drive inside.

Arlos contends that the barrier in front of an entrance that was once open to all is in clear violation of the ADA.

There are openings in the entrance wide enough to admit wheelchairs and pedestrians. But Arlos argues that the openings are inadequate. There is a large mound of blacktop at one opening that would hinder a wheelchair, he said, while the others open onto the lawn, which is not the stable, firm surface that the law requires.

Commission holds firm

Anthony Massimiano, chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners, is away and could not be reached for comment. But Clifford J. Nilan, a longtime member of the board, said yesterday that the commissioners will stand behind their decision regarding the closure.

"I don't think there is anything to this complaint," Nilan said.

The Board of Park Commissioners has so far had two public hearings on the issue, at which neighbors have urged the board to close the park to vehicles due to increasing acts of vandalism, noise and other unwanted behavior.

"After listening to all the facts and getting a ruling from the city solicitor, the Parks Commission made its decision," Nilan said. He also said that the barrier had actually been erected years ago to prevent vehicles from driving into

PARK, continued on B6

Speaking out

Park access dilemma puts Stickney reluctantly in spotlight

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — William Stickney, the disabled man behind the Kirvin Park controversy, says he has been compared to everyone from Tiny Tim — the crippled child in the Charles Dickens Christmas classic — to Jim Fixx, the legendary marathon runner.

"I'm neither one," he said, adding that his disability is actually a very small part of an otherwise full life. Nonetheless, his inability to walk long distances has drawn him reluctantly into the Pittsfield spotlight.

"It's very hard to be identified," Stickney said yesterday. "But if I believe that something is right, I believe I have an obligation to voice it."

He also said that he has tried hard

not to sound like a crank. But as the Kirvin Park drama has continued to unfold in Pittsfield, Stickney said he has been astonished by the personal tone it has sometimes taken, the inaccuracies that have circulated, and the lost opportunities for compromise.

He would be happy with a barrier that opened from dawn to dusk — a compromise that has been suggested often by Councilor at large Gerald S. Doyle Jr.

"I understand the need for a night closing," Stickney said, referring to the neighborhood complaints that launched the issue in the first place. "I don't go into the park after dark."

KIRVIN, continued on B5



Locked barrier erected in front of access road to Kirvin Park prevents motorists from driving into the park.

Kirvin Park access

PARK, from B1

The barrier, a metal bar that is locked shut across the entrance, was torn down in 1990, he said.

"The city didn't have any money to erect another barrier, so we left it open," Nilan said. "That was the first time, to my knowledge, that cars were able to drive in."

Nilan observed that, if the city had replaced the barrier five years ago, it would not now be involved in the dispute with Arlos.

In any event, after neighbors complained bitterly about activity in the park, the commissioners ordered the barrier back up last year, and Stickney has been complaining ever since.

Soccer access

Not only does he contend that the barrier is in violation of the ADA, he also maintains that the commissioners have been discriminatory, since the Pittsfield High School soccer team has been given keys that open the barrier to admit their cars.

Yesterday, Nilan said the gate is allowed open only when there is a "major soccer game" to ease the corresponding traffic problems on Williams Street.

"It was becoming a safety problem," Nilan said. "Cars can go inside to alleviate the congestion."

Nilan said the gate is opened only under supervision of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Arlos has not only been critical of the barrier, but also of the way the city has handled the matter. It was a lack of courtesy to Stickney that prompted Arlos to contact the state and federal governments for an investigation, he said.

Formal grievance

Last week, at a City Council meeting, Stickney said he has filed an official grievance with the city to protest the commission's decision to close Kirvin Park to vehicles. But he said the city's response has not been adequate.

"The first step was to write to the mayor and state my complaint. I did this on Feb. 14. According to the procedure, he or his designee had 15 working days to respond. It has now been 39 days. I am sad to say I still have had no response," Stickney said.

The second step was to present

the complaint in an open meeting of the city's ADA Commission, which Stickney did on Feb. 9, he said. According to the grievance procedure, the committee had 30 calendar days to respond in writing.

"It has now been 61 calendar days and I have not had a response in writing," he said.

Stickney wants the City Council to hold a public hearing on the issue, but Nilan said yesterday that the City Council does not have the authority to do so.

anyway — I'm well past the key party stage."

Essentially, Stickney believes his rights — and the rights of others with disabilities — have been violated under the Americans with Disabilities Act because a barrier, erected in late 1993 by the Park Commission, has prevented him from driving his car into the back fields of Kirvin Park.

The park is massive, and, Stickney says, different from other parks in the city. It was built with an access road into the back fields and there is a parking lot there, he said.

But it was also abused. Neighbors began complaining about vandalism, loud noise and bad behavior. The Parks Commission, reacting to the abutters' concerns, closed off the access road into the park. In so doing, they also made it impossible for Stickney to use his favorite park, he said.

That was an unsatisfactory response, Stickney said, that violated the rights of some to protect the rights of others.

School Department veteran

Stickney, the director of adult education for the Pittsfield School Department, is a 24-year veteran of the department. "I'm a rules person," he said, adding that he understands from his career in public employment that there is always a procedure in place when one questions a rule.

Nonetheless, the procedure fell through in Stickney's case. One city department after the next ignored his letters; he said he was defamed in Assistant City Solicitor Janet Pumphrey's decision on the issue, and the City Council has maintained on a number of occasions that the controversy is beyond its jurisdiction.

"It seems incredible to me that the parks commissioners cannot be questioned; that any decision they make is irrevocable," Stickney said. "I find that hard to believe. They crossed the line when they broke the law. You can't violate the law, no matter who you are."

Whether or not the barrier at Kirvin Park violates the ADA is now under investigation by the



William Stickney

U.S. Dept. of the Interior, which was contacted by Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos.

May 9 public hearing

Stickney appears equally perplexed by the reaction of some members of the City Council, which aired the issue at its last meeting and decided to set up a public hearing on May 9 to decide if Stickney's rights under the ADA have been violated.

Throughout the last meeting, Ward 4 City Councilor Ben J. Kaplan, and, to a lesser degree, Councilor at large Angelo C. Strazzuoli, appeared reluctant to delve into the domain of the park commissioners because they are a group of hard-working volunteers, the two said.

"But what if they are wrong?" Stickney asked. "The fact that they are a volunteer board does not mean they are infallible."

Stickney, the father of two children, lives at 124 McIntosh Drive with his wife. He was born with spina bifida — a birth defect that involves the spinal column — and congenital hip displacement. He said he underwent one of the first successful operations to fuse the spine when he was 6 weeks old, and was spared the more severe disabilities normally associated with spina bifida.

victims of his generation.

Walking is obviously difficult for Stickney, and is becoming more so, he said. But he loves Kirvin Park, mostly because it is so large that many activities can take place there at one time. Thus, Stickney can use the park at the same time that a sports game is taking place, people are flying kites and children are playing, he said.

Denies reports

Stickney said he also wanted to use the forum of this article to set the record straight on two issues. In the first, he denied published reports that he was offered a key to Kirvin Park.

"I was asked if I would accept a key and I said no," he said, adding that a key for his personal use would solve his problem but not that of others with disabilities who would like to use the park.

The second involves a statement that Stickney said he was astonished and angered to read in an opinion written by the assistant city solicitor for the city's director of personnel on whether the barrier represented an ADA violation.

In the opinion, Pumphrey essentially says it does not. She also included the following lines: "If what Mr. Stickney wishes to do is drive to the back of the park and sit in his car while his dog runs loose (a violation of city code) the other city parks which are not closed to cars are available to him."

That never once happened, he said, adding that he was amazed that he would find such a false representation in an official opinion.

According to Stickney, the Park Commission was in error after it closed off the park road with the barrier, and later provided the Pittsfield High soccer coach with a key so that the team could drive inside.

Stickney maintains that providing some citizens with opportunities that others are denied is unfair.

He said he has been motivated to push the issue for a number of reasons, but mostly because of his belief in the importance of public access.

"Public parks, like public schools, are for everyone," he said.

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF PITTSFIELD PURCHASING DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID

The City of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, acting through its Mayor and its Purchasing Agent, will receive sealed bids for:

TRUCK WITH PLOW FOR PARKS

BID P96-101
ESTIMATED COST: \$50,000.00

Bidding procedures will be in accordance with the latest edition of M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Sealed bids will be addressed to the Purchasing Agent, Room 102, City Hall, 70 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. These bids will be received until 2:00 P.M., October 31, 1995 at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the specified time will not be accepted. All bids will be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "SEALED BID ENCLOSED BID #P96-101". All general Bidders may obtain complete sets of plans and specifications at the Purchasing Office for the fee of \$25.00/set in the form of cash or check payable to the City of Pittsfield after 12:00 Noon October 12, 1995.

The City of Pittsfield Purchasing Agent reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Also reserved is the right to reject, for cause, any bid in part or whole, if, in his judgement the best interests of the City will be served thereby. Wages are subject to the prevailing wages requirement of M.G.L. Chapter 149, Sections 26-27F, inclusive. Attention is also called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction contract specifications. All Bidders will receive consideration without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, religion or national origin.

Robert B. Tone, Jr., C.P.M.
Purchasing Agent

October 12, 1995

Federal probe launched over Kirvin access

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The U.S. Department of the Interior has launched an investigation into a complaint filed by Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos that the city of Pittsfield is in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act by closing off Kirvin Park to vehicles.

Arlos has argued that the closing has meant that people with disabilities are denied full access to the 225-acre park off Williams Street.

A letter to Arlos from the Department of the Interior confirms that it is looking into the matter. Arlos' complaint was forwarded there from the Department of Justice. In the letter, Melvin C. Fowler, process manager for the Interior Department's Office of Equal Opportunity, states that Arlos' "complaint has been accepted for investigation." The investigation, the letter says, will be conducted by the National Park Service.

In addition, the city councilor has also contacted the Massachusetts Office of Disability, where an attorney seems to agree that the gate at the entrance renders the park unusable by people with disabilities.

Substantial questions

"Although this office [a state agency] is not empowered to enforce the ADA [federal law], we have had extensive experience in working with the act and regulations," wrote Barbara E. Lybarger, general counsel to the Massachusetts Office on Disability. "It is our opinion that the blocking of the gate raises substantial questions about ADA compliance in Pittsfield. I would strongly suggest that access to the park not be obstructed."

The issue surfaced last year when William Stickney of 124

McIntosh Drive complained that the new barrier erected at the entrance to the park by the Parks Commission prevented him from using the facility.

Stickney is disabled but does not use a wheelchair. He said he is not able to walk the length of the roadway that leads into the back portion of the park. Before the barrier was erected last year, Stickney could drive inside.

Arlos contends that the barrier in front of an entrance that was once open to all is in clear violation of the ADA.

There are openings in the entrance wide enough to admit wheelchairs and pedestrians. But Arlos argues that the openings are inadequate. There is a large mound of blacktop at one opening that would hinder a wheelchair, he said, while the others open onto the lawn, which is not the stable, firm surface that the law requires.

Commission holds firm

Anthony Massimiano, chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners, is away and could not be reached for comment. But Clifford J. Nilan, a longtime member of the board, said yesterday that the commissioners will stand behind their decision regarding the closure.

"I don't think there is anything to this complaint," Nilan said.

The Board of Park Commissioners has so far had two public hearings on the issue, at which neighbors have urged the board to close the park to vehicles due to increasing acts of vandalism, noise and other unwanted behavior.

"After listening to all the facts and getting a ruling from the city solicitor, the Parks Commission made its decision," Nilan said. He also said that the barrier had actually been erected years ago to prevent vehicles from driving into

PARK, continued on B6

Speaking out

Park access dilemma puts Stickney reluctantly in spotlight

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — William Stickney, the disabled man behind the Kirvin Park controversy, says he has been compared to everyone from Tiny Tim — the crippled child in the Charles Dickens Christmas classic — to Jim Fixx, the legendary marathon runner.

"I'm neither one," he said, adding that his disability is actually a very small part of an otherwise full life. Nonetheless, his inability to walk long distances has drawn him reluctantly into the Pittsfield spotlight.

"It's very hard to be identified," Stickney said yesterday. "But if I believe that something is right, I believe I have an obligation to voice it."

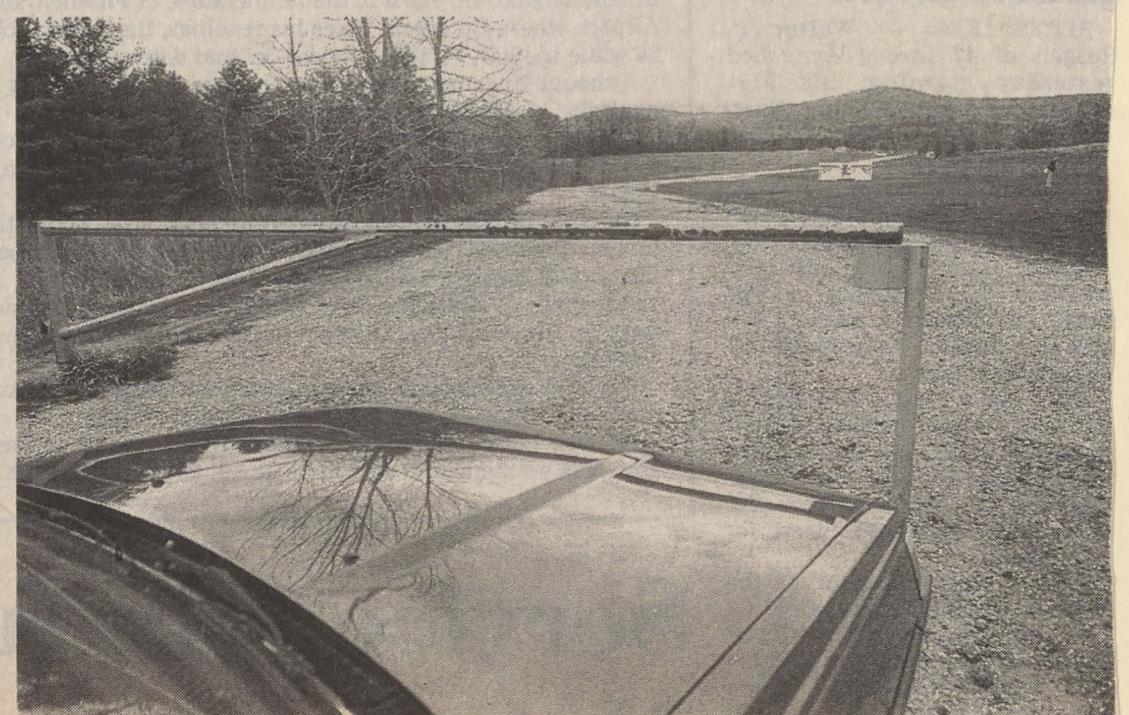
He also said that he has tried hard

not to sound like a crank. But as the Kirvin Park drama has continued to unfold in Pittsfield, Stickney said he has been astonished by the personal tone it has sometimes taken, the inaccuracies that have circulated, and the lost opportunities for compromise.

He would be happy with a barrier that opened from dawn to dusk — a compromise that has been suggested often by Councilor at large Gerald S. Doyle Jr.

"I understand the need for a night closing," Stickney said, referring to the neighborhood complaints that launched the issue in the first place. "I don't go into the park after dark."

KIRVIN, continued on B5



Locked barrier erected in front of access road to Kirvin Park prevents motorists from driving into the park.

4/19/95 Kirvin Park access

PARK, from B1
the park.

The barrier, a metal bar that is locked shut across the entrance, was torn down in 1990, he said.

"The city didn't have any money to erect another barrier, so we left it open," Nilan said. "That was the first time, to my knowledge, that cars were able to drive in."

Nilan observed that, if the city had replaced the barrier five years ago, it would not now be involved in the dispute with Arlos.

In any event, after neighbors complained bitterly about activity in the park, the commissioners ordered the barrier back up last year, and Stickney has been complaining ever since.

Soccer access

Not only does he contend that the barrier is in violation of the ADA, he also maintains that the commissioners have been discriminatory, since the Pittsfield High School soccer team has been given keys that open the barrier to admit their cars.

Yesterday, Nilan said the gate is allowed open only when there is a "major soccer game" to ease the corresponding traffic problems on Williams Street.

"It was becoming a safety problem," Nilan said. "Cars can go in reverse to alleviate the congestion."

Nilan said the gate is opened only under supervision of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Arlos has not only been critical of the barrier, but also of the way the city has handled the matter. It was a lack of courtesy to Stickney that prompted Arlos to contact the state and federal governments for an investigation, he said.

Formal grievance

Last week, at a City Council meeting, Stickney said he has filed an official grievance with the city to protest the commission's decision to close Kirvin Park to vehicles. But he said the city's response has not been adequate.

"The first step was write to the mayor and state my complaint. I did this on Feb. 14. According to the procedure, he or his designee had 15 working days to respond. It has now been 39 days. I am sad to say I still have had no response," Stickney said.

The second step was to present

the complaint in an open meeting of the city's ADA Commission, which Stickney did on Feb. 9, he said. According to the grievance procedure, the committee had 30 calendar days to respond in writing.

"It has now been 61 calendar days and I have not had a response in writing," he said.

Stickney wants the City Council to hold a public hearing on the issue, but Nilan said yesterday that the City Council does not have the authority to do so.

KIRVIN, from B1
anyway — I'm well past the keg party stage."

Essentially, Stickney believes his rights — and the rights of others with disabilities — have been violated under the Americans with Disabilities Act because a barrier, erected in late 1993 by the Park Commission, has prevented him from driving his car into the back fields of Kirvin Park.

The park is massive, and, Stickney says, different from other parks in the city. It was built with an access road into the back fields and there is a parking lot there, he said.

But it was also abused. Neighbors began complaining about vandalism, loud noise and bad behavior. The Parks Commission, reacting to the abutters' concerns, closed off the access road into the park. In so doing, they also made it impossible for Stickney to use his favorite park, he said.

That was an unsatisfactory response, Stickney said, that violated the rights of some to protect the rights of others.

School Department veteran

Stickney, the director of adult education for the Pittsfield School Department, is a 24-year veteran of the department. "I'm a rules person," he said, adding that he understands from his career in public employment that there is always a procedure in place when one questions a rule.

Nonetheless, the procedure fell through in Stickney's case. One city department after the next ignored his letters; he said he was defamed in Assistant City Solicitor Janet Pumphrey's decision on the issue, and the City Council has maintained on a number of occasions that the controversy is beyond its jurisdiction.

"It's so incredible to me that commissioners cannot see that any decision is revocable," Stickney said. "It's hard to believe that the line when you can't drive in is who you are. Who you are who you are."

Stickney, the father of two grown children, lives at 124 McIntosh Drive with his wife. He was born with spina bifida — a birth defect that involves the spinal column — and congenital hip displacement. He said he underwent one of the first successful operations to fuse the spine when he was 6 weeks old, and was spared the more severe disabilities normally associated with spina bifida.



William Stickney

U.S. Dept. of the Interior, which was contacted by Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos.

May 9 public hearing

Stickney appears equally perplexed by the reaction of some members of the City Council, which aired the issue at its last meeting and decided to set up a public hearing on May 9 to decide if Stickney's rights under the ADA have been violated.

Throughout the last meeting, Ward 4 City Councilor Ben J. Kaplan, and, to a lesser degree, Councilor at large Angelo C. Strazzuzzi, appeared reluctant to delve into the domain of the park commissioners because they are a group of hard-working volunteers, the two said.

"But what if they are wrong?" Stickney asked. "The fact that they are a volunteer board does not mean they are infallible."

Stickney, the father of two grown children, lives at 124 McIntosh Drive with his wife. He was born with spina bifida — a birth defect that involves the spinal column — and congenital hip displacement. He said he underwent one of the first successful operations to fuse the spine when he was 6 weeks old, and was spared the more severe disabilities normally associated with spina bifida.

victims of his generation.

Walking is obviously difficult for Stickney, and is becoming more so, he said. But he loves Kirvin Park, mostly because it is so large that many activities can take place there at one time. Thus, Stickney can use the park at the same time that a sports game is taking place, people are flying kites and children are playing, he said.

Denies reports

Stickney said he also wanted to use the forum of this article to set the record straight on two issues. In the first, he denied published reports that he was offered a key to Kirvin Park.

"I was asked if I would accept a key and I said no," he said, adding that a key for his personal use would solve his problem but not that of others with disabilities who would like to use the park.

The second involves a statement that Stickney said he was astonished and angered to read in an opinion written by the assistant city solicitor for the city's director of personnel on whether the barrier represented an ADA violation.

In the opinion, Pumphrey essentially says it does not. She also included the following lines: "If what Mr. Stickney wishes to do is drive to the back of the park and sit in his car while his dog runs loose (a violation of city code) the other city parks which are not closed to cars are available to him."

That never once happened, he said, adding that he was amazed that he would find such a false representation in an official opinion.

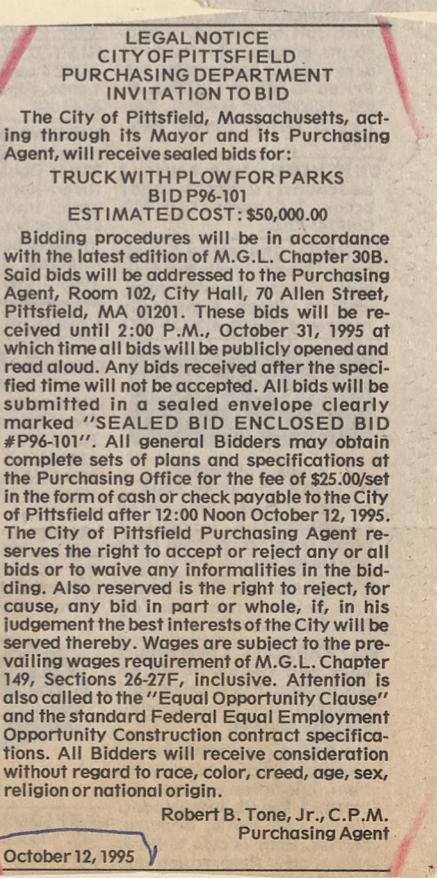
According to Stickney, the Park Commission was in error after it closed off the park road with the barrier, and later provided the Pittsfield High soccer coach with a key so that the team could drive inside.

Stickney maintains that providing some citizens with opportunities that others are denied is unfair.

He said he has been motivated to push the issue for a number of reasons, but mostly because of his belief in the importance of public access.

"Public parks, like public schools, are for everyone," he said.

Monday, May 1



Reilly wants Kirvin Park gates opened

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — To a smattering of applause in the City Council chambers, Mayor Edward M. Reilly last night declared his opinion that city parks should be open by day and closed by night.

His approach, if adopted by the Park Commission, would presumably end the bitter dispute over handicapped access to Kirvin Park off outer Williams Street.

Until now, the mayor has steered clear of the debate that has raged before city boards for months.

"My solution is in the city budget," he said, referring to the \$15,000 extra he allocated several weeks ago to the Parks Department to pay for the services of an individual to open and close the gate.

But whether Reilly's solution will bring to an end the controversy remains to be seen.

Anthony Massimiano, chairman of the Board of Parks Commissioners, could not be reached last night for comment. But another member of the Park Commission said he believes the issue must come before the commissioners again for a vote.

Technically, the park commissioners have authority over city parks. In 1993, responding to the complaints of neighbors, the commissioners voted to lock the access gate in front of the road that takes vehicles to the park's back acres.

One resident, William Stickney, has since objected to that action. He is disabled and says the gate prevents him from using his favorite park as he had in the past. He also has claimed that the locked gate is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Several incidents continued to fuel the fire, including word that the coach of the Pittsfield High School soccer team had a key to open the gate during games when a heavy turnout was expected.

Reilly referred to that fact last night, implying that the situation appeared to be unfair.

"I am troubled when there are two sets of standards," he said. "If you allow any, you allow all."

Also complicating the matter was word that the situation had been called to the attention of the federal government, and that the Interior Department has since launched an investigation into the alleged violation.

In two separate opinions, Assistant City Solicitor Janet H. Pumphrey has maintained that the locked park is not a violation. Nonetheless, the issue contin-

ued to surface at most City Council meetings, and it has been the subject of a number of public hearings. At one of the hearings earlier this month, several members of the disabled community turned out to protest the locked gate. Some were in attendance last night, and they applauded Reilly's comments.

The mayor said that the cost of hiring an individual to open and close park gates was worth the price "to make sure parks are

PARK, continued on B4

Reilly takes park stand

■ PARK, from B1

available during the daylight hours and closed at night."

Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos, who has championed the issue before the City Council, moved that his colleagues support the mayor's proposal and send it along to the Park Commission.

The vote was 7-2, with Councilor at large Angelo C. Stracuzzi and Ward 3 City Councilor Thomas E. Hickey voting against the motion.

Both said they had concerns about vehicles in parks. Two councilors, President Joseph W. Ryan and Ward 4 City Councilor Ben J. Kaplan, were absent from the meeting.

"I have mixed emotions and a real concern about vehicular traffic in parks," Stracuzzi said, adding that he was not prepared to vote on spending \$15,000 to hire someone to open and close park gates.

Hickey essentially said the same.

"For years I coached Little League in Kirvin Park," Hickey said, adding that he has witnessed cars driving through at high rates of speed near where children were playing. "I always worried about the kids. For that reason, I can't go along with it."

Reilly said he would prefer that volunteers took over the gate duties, but that the money would be available if that didn't happen.

Ward 7 City Councilor Joseph O. Guzzo said he is aware that "at times, people who have driven cars into Burbank Park refuse to leave when it's time to close the gate."

In such cases, Reilly said, the police would be summoned.

Guzzo also related a humorous story about his younger days, when he and friends gathered at Burbank Park. One night, he said, former Mayor Evan Dobelle came roaring into the park in a police cruiser "to throw us all out."

5-24-95

Vote to open gate closes Kirvin Park dispute

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Sounding what its members hope will be the final note in the symphony of controversy inspired by the gate at Kirvin Park, the Park Commission voted unanimously last night to open the gate from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting July 1.

The commission's vote followed a two-hour meeting during which members debated the details of the new policy concerning the gate, which it voted to close in late 1993 after nearby neighbors complained of loud parties and other forms of unwanted behavior.

William Stickney, who is disabled, has since maintained that the closure has severely compromised his right to use the

park as he had in the past. He has been joined by other members of the city's disabled community in objecting to the Park Commission's decision.

"The time has come to reconsider," said commission member Anthony G. Massimiano.

Massimiano and several of his colleagues also sought to respond to criticism of the commission's move to close the gate in the first place, particularly the implication that it had not fully addressed the issue.

"The commission has never neglected its duty," said commission member Clifford J. Nilan. "We held two public hearings, and there was overwhelming support for closing the gate."

Commission Chairman Richard A. Scapin, who cast the lone vote against

closing the gate in 1993, observed that while the commission has "taken a lot of heat" on the issue, its members have always been confident that they acted in good faith.

"This is a great commission," said Scapin.

Stickney, who attended the meeting at Morningside Community School, declared himself to be generally satisfied with the decision, certain details of which may be re-examined in the future should circumstances warrant it.

"I'm obviously happy that the commission changed its mind," said Stickney, whose cause had been championed by City Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos. "I think it's a reasonable accommodation. They're giving it a sort of trial run; I

guess I'm giving them a trial run, too."

One matter that might be reconsidered is whether the park's outer gate off Williams Street — which is now always open during the park's "season" of April to November — should be locked at night.

Some members of the commission, notably Robert Smith, argued last night that closing the outer gate at night is the most efficient way of discouraging inappropriate use of the park.

Smith, who is a former Pittsfield police officer, said that groups of people often congregate after dark in the area between the outer and inner gates, and that closing the outer gate would put an end to that.

GATE, continued on B4

Commission tables 6/13/95 action on Kirvin Park

By Gae Elfenbein
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Parks Commission last night tabled action on Kirvin Park pending the outcome of tonight's City Council meeting when the much-debated issue of access to the park will again be on the agenda.

The Council is expected to discuss the merits of tearing up the access road and replacing it with a path and sidewalk for wheelchair and bicycle use.

The commission voted in 1993 to close off access to the road after neighbors complained that the park had become a haven for noise, late-night parties and other unwanted behavior.

One of its regular users, William Stickney of McIntosh Drive, who is disabled, complained that the barrier prevented him from driving into the park to use its back fields as he had in the past. Other members of the handicapped community have since maintained that the barrier denies access to the disabled.

The federal government has the situation under investigation. In the meantime, Mayor Edward M. Reilly, who said he believes that the park should be open from dawn to dusk, included an extra \$15,000 in the park budget this fiscal year to hire someone to open and close the gates every day.

Last night, Park Commissioner Richard A. Scapin said he did not think it would cost that much to open and shut the gates. He pushed unsuccessfully for a vote on allowing access to the park from dawn to dusk.

But Commissioner Clifford J. Nilan said the group should wait to see what the Council does, as that could have an effect on the commission's decisions.

"We don't have everything in front of us to vote tonight," he said. "We can delay one more

week to get everything before us." Paula Virgilio agreed, saying she was prepared to vote on the matter until she learned that the Council would be acting on a petition tonight.

"Our decision here might be moot — null and void," she said.

Scapin's motion to bring the issue to a vote was defeated 3-2, with Chairman Anthony G. Massimiano breaking the tie.

Kaplan, Guzzo seek Burbank upgrade

Councilors agreed Tuesday to ask

parks director John Marchesi to

present a detailed improvement plan

for Burbank Park.

Burbank Park improvements.

Marchesi will be asked to provide

the fee is a hidden tax."

Boyle noted that a previously an-

nounced state grant — which has his report for the council's July 18

been delayed — is designated for meeting.

6-15-95

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Kirvin Park again highlights Council agenda

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — If two city councilors have their way, the road at Kirvin Park that has been the center of a controversy for months will be grassed over, forever ending the issue of whether it should be open to vehicular traffic.

Ward 4 City Councilor Ben J. Kaplan, one of the leaders in the fight to close off the road to cars, and Councilor at large Angelo C. Stracuzzi, who supported that effort, have submitted a petition on the matter to the City Council.

It will be reviewed tomorrow at the City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30.

According to the petition, the two councilors request that the Pittsfield Park Department, in concert with the Department of Public Utilities, cover the driveway through Kirvin Park with loam and then place grass seed on top to create all grass fields throughout the park.

"This action will preclude any vehicular traffic in the park forever," the petition reads. "We would suggest that a sidewalk be installed for wheelchair accessibility and also for biking, roller-blading, etc."

In late 1993, the Park Commission voted to close off access to the road after neighbors complained that the park had become a haven for noise, late-night parties and other unwanted behavior.

One of its regular users, William

The new proposal calls for plans to cover the driveway through the Kirvin Park entrance with loam and then place grass seed on top.

Stickney of McIntosh Drive, complained that the barrier prevented him from driving into the park to use its back fields as he had in the past.

Stickney is disabled and cannot walk the distance into the park. He and other members of the handicapped community have since maintained that the barrier denies access to the disabled.

The federal government has the situation under investigation and is expected to determine whether Stickney's rights were violated under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In the meantime, Mayor Edward M. Reilly, who said he believes that the park should be open from dawn to dusk, included an extra \$15,000 in the park budget this fiscal year to hire someone to open and close the gates every day.

The Park Commission, which will meet this evening, has yet to comment on the

mayor's statement.

In other action, Ward 6 City Councilor James M. Boyle will request that the City Council go on record in favor of the construction of a "multi-use civic center" in downtown Pittsfield.

"As we all know, downtown Pittsfield is in critical shape," Boyle said. "Few or no new businesses are relocating there and many of the businesses that are there now are in jeopardy of going out of business."

Boyle said it is critical to investigate the long-term future of the city.

"North Adams has its Mass MoCA project. Adams has its Greylock Glen project, Lenox the Music Center, Lee the outlet stores, Stockbridge, Tanglewood and the Norman Rockwell Museum," Boyle wrote in his petition.

"Pittsfield has little going for it in the way of attracting people to downtown other than the Colonial Theater, which will help, but not allow us to have a multi-use facility that can be used to attract small conventions and trade shows as well as concerts," Boyle said.

A group of students from the University of Massachusetts who studied the idea as a school project, determined several months ago that the idea had some merit — but some drawbacks as well.

The city has since decided to fund a full-scale study of the idea.

In other action, the City Council will be asked to approve funding for a number of municipal contracts and will debate the merits of re-entering the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Commission.

6/12/95

Council approves \$4.85 million bond

Councilors authorized on Tuesday the issuance of \$4.85 million of municipal bonds to fund a capital budget.

The budget — including building renovations, road improvements and new equipment & vehicles, plus funds to design school additions — was previously approved.

While approving the plan, several councilors mentioned projects not included that they hope will also be funded.

"I urge the Department of Parks and Recreation to get moving," said Joe Guzzo, who wants to see a parks capital improvement plan. "Discipline yourself and get this into the mayor A.S.A.P."

Angelo Stracuzzi also urged parks funding, though he suggested the mayor should help the volunteer parks board devise the appropriate capital plan. "If you would help, I'm sure they would appreciate it," Stracuzzi told Mayor Edward Reilly.

Ben Kaplan sought monies for the replacement of water lines on dead end streets in ward 4, while Guzzo also expressed hope that funds will allow for the replacement of the Peck's Road sewer.

10/12/95

Kirvin Park issue: No open, shut case

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Like a volleyball at a marathon tournament, the issue of whether to reopen the gate at Kirvin Park has bounced back and forth between the City Council and the Park Commission for months.

Last night, the City Council served the ball back to the Park Commission. But at least two of the councilors said it was for the last time.

No jurisdiction

Councilor at large Gerald S. Doyle and Ward 5 City Councilor Francis B. Marinaro both said the Park Commission should vote on the issue once and for all at its next meeting Monday evening.

Indeed, Doyle wondered aloud why a Kirvin Park issue was even before the City Council again.

"We've been told for the last six months that we have no jurisdiction over the parks," Doyle said. "But the Park Commission is not making a decision."

He also said he has been embarrassed by the remarks made by members of the public over the stalemate.

At last night's City Council meeting, the latest chapter in the Kirvin Park issue was a petition submitted by Ward 4 City Councilor Ben J. Kaplan and Councilor at large Angelo C. Stracuzzi that the controversial driveway that leads to the back fields of the park be taken out and grassed over, forever ending the question of whether the road should be open to vehicular traffic.

The petition earned the support only of its two initiators and fizzled on a 9-2 vote.

The Park Commission closed the road in late 1993 after nearby neighbors complained of loud parties and other forms of unwanted behavior. William Stickney, who is disabled, has since maintained that the closure has

violated his rights to use the park as he had in the past. Stickney has been joined by other members of the city's disabled community in objecting to the Park Commission's decision.

The City Council has debated the issue off and on ever since, but it failed to act based on its belief that it had no control over the activities of the parks. A few weeks ago, Mayor Edward M. Reilly, in an attempt to settle the dispute, awarded the Park Commission an extra \$15,000 a year in its budget to pay for the dawn-to-dusk openings of all city parks with roads. The City Council then sent the issue back to the Park Commission.

But that board decided against acting this week, when two councilors came in with the idea of grassing over the road and installing a sidewalk into the back fields. The commissioners decided to see how the City Council would act on the petition.

Now that it's been killed, the ball is back in the Park Commission's court.

Taking stock of the protracted situation, Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos — who supports reopening the road — observed, "It's amazing the lengths we go to do the simple thing."

One member of the audience, Patricia Sheely of 99 Second St., accused city officials of "kowtowing" to the affluent neighbors who live near the park and who requested the closing in the first place.

And William Cavanaugh, executive director of the Ad Lib Center for Independent Living, noted that the reason for the closing has appeared to shift.

Initially, it was for the unwanted nighttime activity, he said. When the dawn-to-dusk opening emerged as a compromise, the concerns shifted to the threat of vehicular traffic on the road.

"Open the gate and close the issue," he said.

Pittsfield Gazette, June 22, 1995

The Pittsfield Gazette
PO Box 2236
Pittsfield, Mass 01202-2236
141 North Street

OPINIONS



Highway Dept. agrees to repair retaining wall at Pontoosuc Lake

By D.R. Bahman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — City officials have secured a commitment from the Massachusetts Highway Department to include the repair and renovation of a retaining wall on the shore on Pontoosuc Lake in the reconstruction of upper North Street.

The retaining wall, which runs south from the YMCA boathouse to the "hairpin" turn, is in sore need of repair, said Councilor at large Gerald S. Doyle Jr.

Doyle, Mayor Edward M. Reilly, Park Commission Chairman Richard Scapin and Anthony Stracuzzi, the Parks Department's director of maintenance, were

among the city officials who prevailed on the Highway Department to repair the wall.

6-foot drawdown

"Now is the ideal time to do it, since Mass Highway's equipment is right there," Doyle said yesterday. "In the long run, it will save the city a great deal of money."

Doyle praised the cooperation that local officials received from District 1 Highway Engineer Rudyard Longton.

The level of Pontoosuc Lake is usually lowered by 3 feet in the autumn in order to discourage the proliferation of weeds in the lake.

This year, however, officials have proposed drawing the lake down an additional 3 feet to ac-

commodate the reconstruction of upper North Street and repairs to the retaining wall.

At points, state officials have said, the relocated roadway will protrude 35 feet into the lake.

Approval needed

The drawdown is subject to the approval of the conservation commissions in Pittsfield and Lanesboro.

Doyle, who is a member of Pittsfield's commission, said that the drawdown is on the commission's agenda for its meeting tonight; the Lanesboro Conservation Commission will consider the matter at its meeting on Tuesday, said John Hyland, a member of the commission.

Quiet compromise

As the controversy over access to Kirvin Park raged in recent months, Mayor Edward Reilly remained silent.

At Tuesday's city council meeting — as another messy chapter in the saga started to unfold — Reilly broke the silence. He announced a compromise that instantly took city councilors off the hot seat.

While the council had allowed a simple issue to snowball into a political nightmare, the mayor quietly created a mechanism to diffuse the situation.

The Kirvin controversy centered on a gate at the entrance to the park. Resident William Stickney claimed the barrier violated the Americans With Disabilities Act. He encountered bureaucracy instead of common

sense as he sought recourse, ultimately leading a parade of activists before the council.

Reilly addressed the issue by adding \$15,000 into his budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The money will pay an employee to lock and unlock gates

at the city's parks, ensuring daylight access while discouraging inappropriate nighttime uses.

From a political perspective, what's interesting is the quiet way the mayor implemented his solution.

Despite spending four weeks reviewing Reilly's budget — including at several special meetings — councilors appeared unaware that the mayor had built the solution into his spending plan. The mayor indicated that he had mentioned his plan to some councilors but had never been directly asked about the subject.

On Tuesday when Reilly outlined his compromise, a few councilors couldn't contain their expressions of relief.

Despite the apparent solution, the issue may not be fully resolved. As councilor Angelo Stracuzzi noted, paying someone \$15,000 to lock and unlock gates is an iffy budgetary priority. And Tom Hickey noted that unlocking all gates during the daylight hours could lead to safety problems as motorized vehicles share space with youngsters.

For now, though, it appears that this no-win issue will fade into the background. Nothing would make most councilors happier than to never hear about it again.

5/25/95

The Pittsfield Gazette, October 26, 1995

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PO Box 2236
Pittsfield, Mass 01202-2236
141 North Street

OPINIONS

THE NEW IMPROVEMENTS OF KIRVIN PARK SINCE THE OPEN GATE POLICY

... A BETTER NETWORK OF DIRT ROADS CRISSCROSSING THE HILLS AND FIELDS CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED USING THE WHEELS OF 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES.



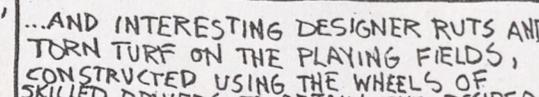
... COLORFUL DISPLAYS OF BROKEN GLASS ADORNING THE BASKETBALL COURT, REPRESENTING BEERS AND WINES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



... QUICKER MORE AGILE PEDESTRIANS AS THEY DODGE 40-M.P.H. (PLUS) VEHICLES, NOT PARTICULARLY CONTAINED TO JUST THE ROADS.



... AND INTERESTING DESIGNER RUTS AND TORN TURF ON THE PLAYING FIELDS, CONSTRUCTED USING THE WHEELS OF SKILLED DRIVERS TO OBTAIN THE DESIRED EFFECT.



... TOTAK 10/24/95 ©

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COUNCIL REPORT

Councilors unlocked door for prolonged gate debate

A fast-moving city council meeting Tuesday encountered a barrier — literally and figuratively.

After more than 45 minutes of farflung debate, councilors opted to keep their noses out of a controversy involving a locked gate at Kirvin Park. Though several councilors agreed that the issue raised by Peter Arlos was valid, they disagreed with his approach to resolving it.

The gate at the park in the southeast corner of the city has generated heated exchanges at several public meetings involving the parks commission.

Following discussions at regular sessions as well as a lengthy open hearing, commissioners voted late last year to keep the main entry gate at the park locked to prevent repeated acts of vandalism and inappropriate behavior.

Arlos claims that the decision violates the Americans With Disabilities Act. He said that a resident, William Stickney, has been unable to fully use the facility because of the barriers.

Furthermore, Arlos said that city officials had not adequately responded to Stickney's concerns, hindering his efforts to file a formal complaint.

"This has been going on for three or four months," said Arlos of problems in the city's personnel department. The councilor claims that a consultant hired by the city, Thomas Guerino, was a "phoney baloney" and failed to address disability issues.

Arlos outlined alleged deficiencies in city hall's procedures for dealing with ADA issues and said the parks commission failed to respond to a council request to revisit the issue earlier this month. (The commission has not met since the council made its request).

The councilor said Stickney was "put on a fool's errand asking for a right that belongs to him."

Arlos' official petition asked councilors to "go on record supporting action against the Parks Commission under the Americans With Disabilities Act for blocking the Kirvin Park roadway and thus making it inaccessible to handicapped citizens."

Though some councilors agreed with Arlos that the gate should not be locked, several colleagues objected



As Gerald Doyle, Jr. protested the suitability and tenor of a heated discussion regarding a gate at a city park, Tim DiSilva raised his hand, waiting to force the issue to a vote.

to a perceived attack on the volunteer parks board and suggestions regarding city council insensitivities toward the handicapped.

Paul Dowd produced a map he had drawn of the Kirvin entrance, showing that open areas around barriers meet federal guidelines for wheelchair access.

"Either way you go here, there is accessibility," said Dowd, one of several councilors who tempered his remarks with assurances that he supports public access for the disabled.

Tom Hickey said the issue might not be the front gate but an inability to get a motorized vehicle further into the park, which has several large fields. Hickey suggested a key system for handicapped park users. But the ward 3 councilor objected to Arlos' call for "supporting action" against the parks commission.

Gerald Doyle Jr. supports an open gate and reiterated a call for a dawn-to-dusk open door policy. But he too chafed at Arlos' petition, requesting that it be reworded to "ask the parks commission to come into compliance with the ADA."

Ben Kaplan disagreed, noting that about 25 park neighbors attended a hearing on the subject and asked for the closed gate.

"The parks commission acted very prudently because of what was happening in the park," Kaplan said. He cited public urination and vandalism. "This is an issue of danger."

Saying he is an advocate for the disabled, Kaplan added "I don't

know why we're beating this to death."

Arlos reentered the debate, refusing to "water down" his petition and vowing not to support the parks commissioners in the future.

Dowd objected to an Arlos' suggestion that gate supporters are insensitive: "I'm compassionate, don't tell me I'm not." The key issue involves making the park safe for all users, he said.

Doyle also reacted vociferously to Arlos' comments, saying his colleague made unfair insinuations. Doyle also said that since Arlos said he could provide Stickney with the necessary forms to file an official complaint, he shouldn't have wasted council time on the debate.

James Boyle suggested referring the matter to city solicitor Kate Alexander for a determination as to whether the city is violating the ADA.

"This is just a delay," argued Arlos. He also claimed that Alexander is not objective because she spoke on the subject previously as a private citizen.

Boyle's motion to send the matter to Alexander failed on a 6-5 vote.

Tim DiSilva then moved the question, calling for an immediate vote on Arlos' original petition. The call for "supporting the action" against the commission failed 9-2, supported only by Arlos and Boyle.

In addition to achieving no resolution after more than 45 minutes of debate, the matter took up more than half the meeting.

Footprints lead police to suspects

PITTSFIELD — Two 19-year-olds were arrested at Springside Park last night after their footprints in the snow led police directly to them.

Lt. John T. O'Neil said Robert Delphia, 19, of Benedict Road was charged with possession of alcohol and Christopher Jones, 19, of upper North Street was charged with tagging, or spray painting.

Call from neighbor

O'Neil said a neighbor called at 6:30 p.m. to report a suspicious car on Upper Brown Street where new homes being built by Ladouceur Construction Co. have been the target of recent vandalism.

Upon arriving at the scene, Officers Michael Maddalena and Thomas Barber found fresh blue spray paint on the front door of one of the homes. They noticed footprints in the snow and followed the prints into Springside Park and to a campfire.

At the campfire, O'Neil said, they found Delphia drinking a beer. Jones had fresh spray paint on his hands and a knapsack with spray paint in it. A juvenile found at the scene was sent home, O'Neil said.

The two men were released last night and will be arraigned in Central Berkshire District Court today.

11/13/95

Rude behavior ruining Common

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

Last week my son and I took a stroll to the Pittsfield Common play area at about 4:30 p.m., although it was against my better judgment. Usually we try to go in the morning — before school gets out — and we rarely go on the weekends. This particular day was a perfect example of why I prefer taking my 19-month-old there in the mornings.

As we arrived, I did my usual surveying of the area. I noticed a man riding up with a child in his bike seat, another family leaving, and I breathed a sigh of relief when I noticed about eight older boys playing football in the field near the play area.

We played on the equipment and another couple of younger children joined us along with their mothers. My son and I were there for no more than 15 or 20 minutes when the boys stopped the football game and came on to the play area fighting and swearing. Within minutes I had my child, the man with the bike had his child, and the others were beginning to look annoyed. As the man put his child back on his bike, he asked the boys to stop. I don't believe they did, but I was already pushing the stroller out of the play area. I noticed the others who were there previously were leaving too.

On nearly all the occasions I have been there in the afternoons similar situations have occurred. The 8-, 9-, 10- (and even older) year-olds come, not only swearing, but roughhousing and playing on the equipment with total disregard for whoever else is there. I have to leave not only for my child's safety, but because I don't want to see and hear the garbage that goes on there.

As I left that day, a woman passing by with her two sons

overheard me telling my screaming son, "I'm sorry, some people ruin it for everyone." She told me she hadn't been there for months because of that same sort of situation.

Every child has a right to play in our public parks. They can roughhouse, run, jump, and do all the things kids love to do — as long as it doesn't infringe upon the rights of others. If they are going to use foul language, they definitely need to go somewhere else.

These seem to be pretty much the same kids every time. While someone suggested monitoring of the park, that may not be feasible. I would hope that the parents of children who frequent the park would let them know how their behavior affects others, to respect others and to have "clean" fun.

BETHANY ADAMS
57 Howard St.
Pittsfield, Oct. 26, 1995

11/8/95

Dec. 6, 1995



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Stately spruce

A 25-foot blue spruce donated by Judge and Mrs. William Simons of Pittsfield was erected in Park Square yesterday by city crews. The lighting will take place at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

Pittsfield children invited to annual Easter egg hunt

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Parks and Recreation will sponsor the city's annual Easter egg hunt Saturday at the Boys' and Girls' Club, beginning promptly at 1.

The event is for children ages 2 through 9. The children will be divided into four age groups, with 2- and 3-year-olds competing, 4- and 5-year-olds, 6- and 7-year-olds and 8- and 9-year-olds.

At 1, the competition for the 2- and 3-year-olds and the 6- and 7-year-olds will take place. The competition for the 4- and 5-year-olds and 8- and 9-year-olds will follow at 1:45.

The event is open to Pittsfield residents. Prizes will be awarded in each age group for children finding the green, blue, golden, silver and black eggs. Children are asked to bring their own bags and baskets.

John C. Marchesi, director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, advises that parents use the front entrance of the Boys' and Girls' Club on Melville Street. More information may be obtained by calling Marchesi at 499-9343.

In addition to the Department of Parks and Recreation, other sponsors of the annual Easter egg hunt are the Pittsfield Exchange Club, Price Chopper, the Boys' and Girls' Club and Berkshire County Savings Bank.

4/11/95

Park Square tree to be lit Dec. 7

PITTSFIELD — The annual tree lighting ceremony in Park Square will be held on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m.

The event, sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation, will include William Kudlate leading Christmas caroling.

This year's tree, a 25-foot blue spruce, was donated by William and Marilyn Simons of 43 Commonwealth Ave.

12/31/95

EASTER EGG HUNT: Sponsored by Department of Parks and Recreation, for children ages 2 through 9, Boys' and Girls' Club, Melville Street, Pittsfield, 1. 4-14-95

Pittsfield Gazette, April 13, 1995

LSE OF PITTSFIELD



EGGcellent Effort

Members of the Pittsfield Exchange Club stuffed 8,000 plastic egg shells with 360 pounds of jelly beans Tuesday in preparation for Saturday's free Easter Egg Hunt at the Pittsfield Boys' & Girls' Club. Boys and girls ages 2 & 3 and 6 & 7 will hunt at 1 p.m. sharp; ages 4 & 5 and 8 & 9 will have their turn at 1:45 p.m. All participants should bring their own bags or baskets.



Quick indeed

More than 1,500 youngsters and parents attended the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday at the Boys' and Girls' Club. The event was divided into four separate hunts, each for a different age group. The fast-paced scrambles to gather eggs appeared to be successful. In the photo above, a group of youngsters moved quickly at the beginning of their hunt in the club's main gym. It took just 70 seconds for these kids to scoop up some 2,000 plastic eggs.

4/20/95

City kids eligible for calls from Santa

PITTSFIELD — For the 14th year, the Department of Parks and Recreation's Santa volunteers and operators will be making personal telephone calls to Pittsfield children from the Berkshire County Savings Bank on Monday, Dec. 11, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 12, during the same time period.

Information sheets have been sent home with children in kindergarten through 2nd grade.

Forms are also available at the Department of Parks and Recreation office at 874 North St. All forms are to be returned to the Recreation office by Friday, Dec. 8.

12/1/95

10/8/95 Halloween Parade planning session set

PITTSFIELD — The second organizational meeting for the 51st Annual Halloween Parade will be on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Parks & Recreation Department Office, 874 North St.

Organizations wishing to participate in the parade with floats, marching units and bands must attend this meeting at the Springside House or have a representative in attendance.

Further information and forms will be distributed at the session, and any questions regarding the Halloween Parade will also be answered.

The parade is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 7 p.m.

Pittsfield sets trick-or-treat

PITTSFIELD — The Board of Park Commissioners has announced that trick-or-treat night will take place in Pittsfield on Monday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Children should be accompanied by adults.

Also, the Halloween Parade will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 7 p.m.

10/11/95

The Pittsfield Gazette, October 19, 1995

Halloween activities scheduled

Ghosts and goblins — young and old — will find many ways to celebrate Halloween in the next two weeks.

Girls Incorporated, in association with the parks & recreation department, will host its annual Halloween party on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The party will begin with the grand march in the gymnasium, followed by costume judging.

Prizes will be awarded for the funniest, scariest and most original costumes. Other activities will include bobbing for apples, musical chairs, pumpkin decorating, and a room of mystery hosted by the pre-teen and teen groups at the center. Refreshments will be served following the festivities.

The city's Department of Parks and Recreation is co-sponsoring the event, which is open to the public. The party is for children in kindergarten through Grade 7.

Tickets are \$1 and are to be purchased in advance, since space is limited. More information is available from the club, 442-5174.

on Sunday, October 29 and Monday, October 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. Admission to the "ghoulishly decorated" property will be \$5.

The Berkshire Athenaeum will present a free children's Halloween party on Monday, October 30. The event, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., will include costume judging, "pin the stem on the pumpkin" and a film. Preregistration is required.

Trick or Treat will be held in Pittsfield on Monday, October 30 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Adults should accompany youngsters, who should wear reflective clothing and carry flashlights.

Berkshire Medical Center is celebrating Halloween on Tuesday, October 31 with a community-wide blood drive.

Adults are welcome from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the hospital's basement dining rooms. Staff members will wear costumes from the "M*A*S*H" television series and episodes of the program will be shown on television monitors. Call 447-2597 for details or reservations.

The city's Halloween Parade will begin Tuesday, October 31 at 7 p.m. at the junction of East Street and Park Square. The short parade, with floats, bands and marchers, proceeds up North Street.

Immediately following the parade, the Berkshire Museum hosts its annual family Halloween party. The event — from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31 — includes ghosts, games, snakes, bats and mummies too. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children.



Pitt Park plays host to Gather-In

8/20/95

Festival serves up food, music, basketball

By Gae Elfenbein
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Blessed with perfect August weather, Pitt Park was alive yesterday with throbbing music and throngs of visitors who stopped by to take in the sights, sounds and tastes of the Gather-In.

"The music and the food," said 9-year-old Jackie Williamson when asked what she likes about the annual event, approaching its 30th year. "It's a day to let yourself enjoy yourself."

For her uncle, James A. Williamson, a businessman and civic leader, the event offers the West Side "a chance to show the other people in the county what we have here."

'Relax and have fun'

It's a day for visiting, for catching up on the news, for putting aside rivalries and politics, said Williamson.

"It's a day to relax and have fun," he said.

His brother, Richard Williamson, Jackie's father, said the fair offers the community a day to forget about the battle against drug dealers and crime.

"It's a day to forget our problems," he said, adding, "Everyone has problems."

Music — rock, reggae, rap and gospel — spilled forth all day from a large yellow-and-white striped tent set up in the recently renovated park.

Around the borders, nestled against the fences in the shade, was an assortment of gas grills and charcoal smokers, loaded with ribs, chicken and other goodies.

Tending ribs in a "Texas smoker" made from a 55-gallon drum was William Hygh, who said he "left here 30 years ago and was never coming back."

Now living in Cairo, N.Y., he came back just to help out at the fair at the urging of his sister, Linda Hoose, who now lives "over by Burgner's."

The Hygh family originated in



William Hygh of Cairo, N.Y., watches his sister Lynn Hoose of Pittsfield serve corn-on-the-cob yesterday at the Gather-In. Below, Asiya Maria Gonzales, 4, of Holyoke enjoys the Air Force Recruiting Service model plane at the festival.

Texas, Hoose said, moving here first in 1959.

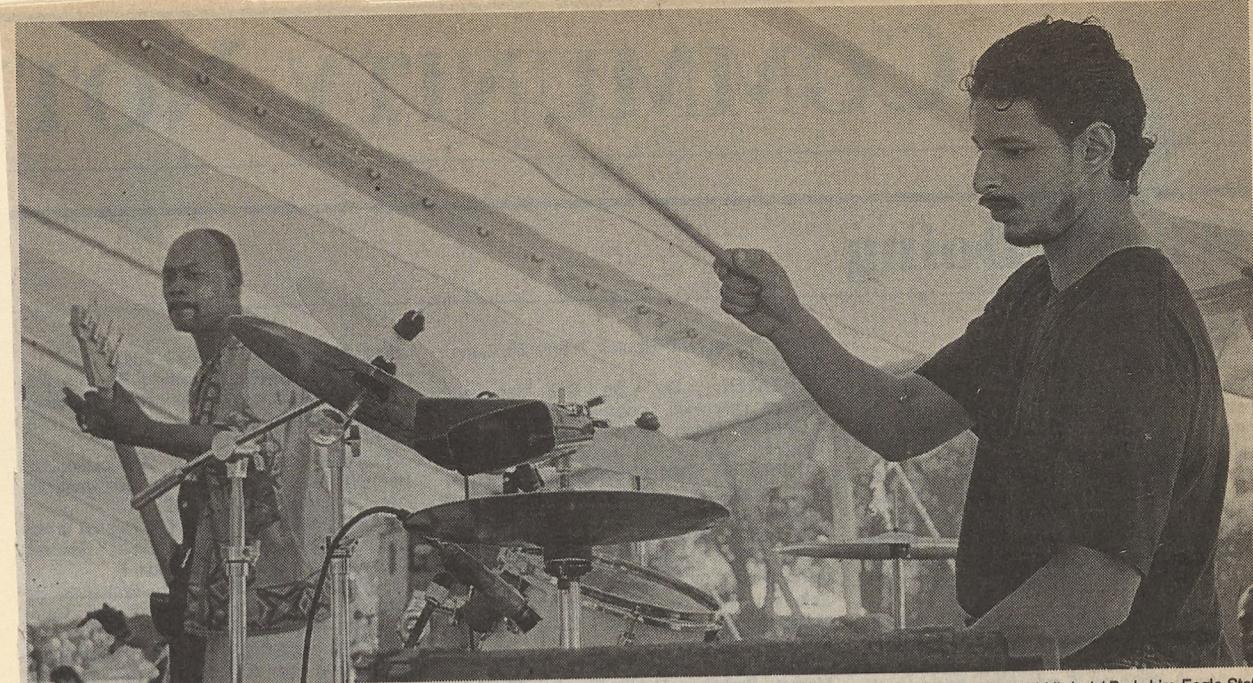
"We kept leaving and coming back," she said. They have been here permanently since 1975.

She and her sister Bettie Hygh ran the "Hygh family booth," as Hoose called it, which offered, along with the ribs, corn-on-the-cob.

William Hygh was a star football player when he was in high school here, he said, and was very involved with the community. His mother, Rosa Reid, was well known, and his father was a coach.

Having drifted away, he was now thinking "maybe it's time to come back," he said, as he gazed out over the crowd.

GATHER-IN, continued on B9



Oscar Ledbetter, left, and David Glasser, members of Power and Praise, practice yesterday at the Gather-In in Pittsfield while, below, a basketball game at the festival features the Bulls against the Lightning (boys 10 to 13).

8/20/95

Gather-In from B1

Although he does not cook professionally, he does take pride in his ribs, he said, proclaiming "They're the best." As with other chefs, he would not reveal the seasonings but said: "It's like they say. The secret's in the sauce."

The secret is also in slow cooking — about 3½ hours for one batch, he said.

"Some people are in too much of a hurry," he said. "You've got to have the temperature right. Then you put 'em in and sit down."

A booth away, Chuck Moore claimed his father's ribs were the best. A former chef, Clifford Spence was expecting a crowd. He had prepared 150 pounds of beef ribs but at 5 p.m. still had quite a pile waiting to be served.

"It'll pick up when the adults start coming for supper," he said, adding with disdain, "There are a lot of kids here now and they're eating hamburgers and hot dogs."

But Spence said no matter how many ribs were left, he planned to pack up his leftovers and head home by 8 to catch the Tyson-McNeely fight.

Spence is in the process of trying to open a restaurant on Union Street in North Adams but said getting financial backing is tough.

Declining to get too specific, he said he seasons his ribs the night before and lets them sit before cooking them.

"I think I've got the best ribs," he declared.

So did the folks at the Second Congregational Church, where for \$5 one could purchase a plate full of ribs dripping in sauce with generous servings of greens and rice.



or turkey then fried, went fast as they are seldom available here, he said.

Because the children will benefit, the church insists that they share in the work.

"They peeled the potatoes and onions and made the cupcakes, so it's not just us doing something for them," she said.

Even those involved in the basketball tournament will take a turn manning the table, she said.

Pony rides, face painting, an African fashion show, gospel music and a block dance were among the activities of the day.

The event was sponsored by the Christian Center and Association for Basic Community Development & Education.

Girls Inc. names Halloween winners

PITTSFIELD — Girls Incorporated of Pittsfield held its annual Halloween Party on Oct. 24. The Grand March ended with costume judging and the announcement of the winners in four categories.

The winners of this year's contest were as follows: Funniest — Jeremy Reid; Scariest — Alex Raimer; Most Original — Vanna Tremblay, and Most Like Halloween — Monique Enos. This year's judges were Regina Killeen, Jayne Webber and Dianne Davis. Each winner received an award and a gift certificate to the Berkshire Mall.

The party was attended by more than 100 children who participated in bobbing for apples, musical chairs, pumpkin decorating and a mystery room. The center runs the party annually with assistance from the Pittsfield Department of Parks and Recreation.

11/17/95

Parade meeting slated

PITTSFIELD — The final organizational meeting for the Halloween Parade Oct. 31 has been set for Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Springside House, 874 North St., according to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Organizations wishing to participate with either a float, band or marching unit are invited. All entries must have a Halloween-related theme.

For further information, call the Park Department office at 499-9343.

10/21/95

Parks board sets 10/13/95 Halloween events

The Park Commission has announced that trick-or-treat night will take place in Pittsfield on Monday, October 30, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. All children should be accompanied by adults, wear reflective clothing and carry flashlights.

The annual Halloween parade will be held on Tuesday, October 31 at 7 p.m. As in years past, the route will begin at East Street, pass Park Square and proceed to North Street.

9/25/95 Halloween parade plans prepared

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Parks and Recreation has announced that it is preparing for the city's 51st annual Halloween Parade.

The parade will be on Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 7 p.m.

Schools and organizations are invited to enter floats, marching units, cheerleaders and costumed representatives dressed in Halloween attire.

An organizational meeting to cover float construction, themes and prizes has been scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. at Springside House, 874 North St.

Questions can be directed to the department at 499-9343.

Other food

Avoiding the rib battle were the folks from Victory Temple Church. Set up near the basketball court where a young people's tournament drew a large crowd, they were doing a brisk business in fried fish and french fries.

Aside from the traditional Southern fare, West Indian food was offered by three booths, although Tyus Durant said he and his wife, Nefertiti, were more authentic than the others.

"This kind of food is getting more familiar in the city but is not around here yet," he said. But it may be, as he said he and his wife are hoping to open a restaurant featuring West Indian cooking.

Children helped

Curried foods and sorrel drink were also sold at the Price Memorial AME Zion Church Sunday School table, overseen by Cheryl Gaul.

Massimiano again to lead city's Halloween Parade

PITTSFIELD — As he has in years past, Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano will serve as grand marshal of the 51st annual Halloween parade tomorrow beginning at 7 p.m., when floats, bands and costumed children make the traditional walk down the parade route.

Sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Sons of Italy — Itam Lodge, the parade will form on East Street, travel up North Street and end at Wahconah Street where the bands and marching units will disperse.

Band, float prizes

Three prizes will be awarded to the best floats and bands participating in the parade. First prize in both categories will be \$150; second prize will be \$125, and third prize will be \$100.

In addition, a total of 25 individual award gift certificates will be presented to children marching in the parade. Judges will select the winners in the lineup area before the parade kicks off, and the winners will be given ribbons to wear on their costumes.

The children will receive their gift certificates when they return their ribbons to the Department of Parks and Recreation at 874 North St.

The Pittsfield Police Department has announced that all traffic on East Street,

from the corner of First and East to Fourth and Elm streets, will be shut down from 6 p.m. until the end of the parade. Police estimate that will be about 8 p.m.

Traffic will also be barred from using the side streets that feed out to East Street in that area. Thus, northbound traffic on Wendell, Bartlett, Pomeroy and Appleton avenues, between East Housatonic Street and East Street, will be closed off for the duration of the parade. No southbound traffic will be allowed on Willis Street.

At 6:45 p.m., all northbound traffic on South Street will be diverted to make way for the parade. There will be no rotary traffic around Park Square, and traffic will be diverted from North Street and Wahconah Street in the area of the park for the duration of the parade.

Police also announced that there will be no parking allowed on the north side of East Street, nor on the east side of North Street from Park Square to Berkshire Medical Center. Parking will also be prohibited on Wahconah Street from BMC to Briggs Avenue.

At the end of the parade, marching units will go into Wahconah Park. The motorized units will continue north on

PARADE, continued on B4

■ Parade from B1

Wahconah Street and stop north of the park entrance. The parade lineup follows.

1. Pittsfield Police cruiser
2. Parks and Recreation Department vehicle
3. VFW Post 448 Color Guard
4. Halloween Grand Marshal Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano
5. Berkshire County House of Correction float
6. Pittsfield fire truck and Sparky
7. Winter Carnival queen
8. Crosby School marchers

Section I — Corner of First and East streets to Bartlett Avenue

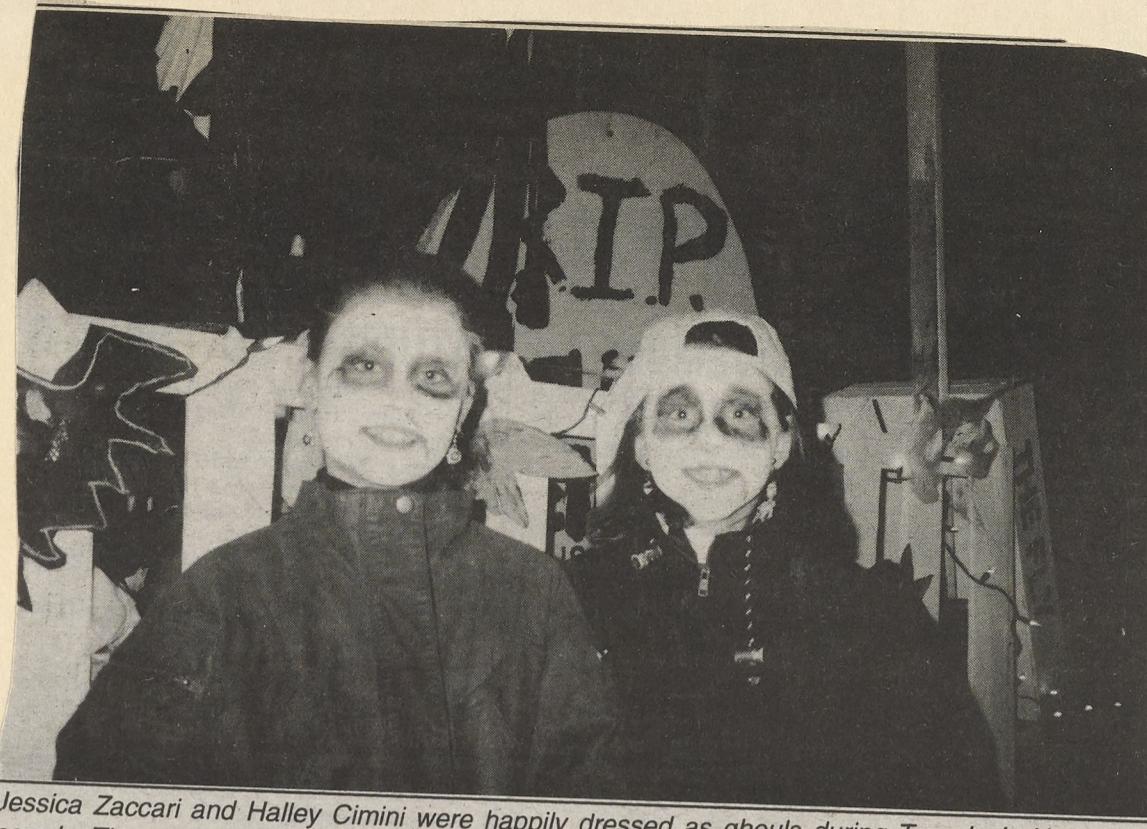
9. Eagles Band
10. Fabulous '50s marchers
11. Allendale School/Altresco float
12. Allendale School marching unit
13. Catholic Youth Center marchers
14. Stearns School float
15. Stearns School marchers
16. WBEC van

Section II — Bartlett Avenue to Pomeroy Avenue

17. Pittsfield High School Band
18. Pittsfield High School marchers
19. Berkshire Giant Pumpkin Growers float
20. Berkshire Giant Pumpkin Growers marchers
21. Boys' and Girls' Club swim team marchers
22. School bus — Handicapped children
23. WUPE van
24. Williams School marchers

Section IV — Pittsfield High School driveway to Appleton Avenue

25. Lee High School Band
26. Highland School marchers
27. Girls Inc. marchers
28. Kay-Bee Toys float
29. Kay-Bee Toys marchers
30. Morningside School marchers
31. Camp Fire marchers
32. Pittsfield Police cruiser



Jessica Zaccari and Halley Cimini were happily dressed as ghouls during Tuesday's Halloween parade. The annual event featured hundreds of costumed youngsters. 11-2-95

Halloween Parade costume winners listed

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Parks and Recreation has announced the list of the costume award winners in the 51st annual Halloween Parade.

Winners were:

Shana Renee Mitchell, Morningside School, Grade 1; Gina Parisi, Stearns School, Grade 3; Lyndsey Porter, Highland School, kindergarten; Megan Dermody, Highland School, kindergarten; Crystal Sidway, Morningside School, Grade 2; Nathan Brown, Allendale School, Grade 3; Reit Simmons, Allendale School, Grade 2; Jessica Russo, Highland School, kindergarten; Krystal Davis, Morningside School, Grade 1; Stephanie Watroba, Allendale School, Grade 5; Amanda Sciola, Allendale School, Grade 3.

Also, Mary Hickey-Starsia, Morningside School, kindergarten; Stephanie Jeanne Longardelli, Highland School, Grade 5; Sean Mochon, Highland School, kindergarten; Christopher Phillips, Stearns School, Grade 3; Jennifer Scapin, Stearns School, Grade 1; John St. John, Pittsfield High School special school bus; Molly Coyle, Stearns School, Grade 2; Nicole Lynn Haddad, Crosby School, special education; Kristie Tubbs, Crosby School, special education; Nicole Mallory, Stearns School, Grade 2, and Jacob Kirchner, Stearns School, Grade 5. 11/13/95

Park Square Christmas Tree plans advancing

The lighting of the city's Park Square Christmas Tree has tentatively been scheduled for December 7.

First, a three-person committee must select the tree. John Marchesi, the city's park director, said the trio already has a list of one dozen possible tree donations — all phoned in by residents. When a suitable tree is selected, it will be cut and transported to Park Square.

Park commission members voted Monday to explore options to create a permanent home for the tree at the downtown site.

In recent years, the tree has been installed through an elaborate procedure. Commissioners, frustrated by inability to find a fiscally sound plan to reactivate the park's fountain, discussed creating a permanent "sleeve" instead that could be used for the holiday tree. 11/9/95

— The Berkshire Eagle, Wednesday, November 1, 1995



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano, the parade's grand marshal, dressed as Winnie-the-Pooh. Here he doffs his bear's head to get some of the youngsters organized before the parade sets off.

■ Parade from A1

England-wide competition earlier this year, took first place.

Second prize went to a float constructed by pupils at Allendale School and its business partner, Altresco. The Kay-Bee Toys/Morn-

ingside School float took third place.

First-, second- and third-place bands and floats will receive awards of \$150, \$125 and \$100.

Ribbons that may be redeemed for gift certificates were presented to 25 children in costume; Marchesi said the winners' names will be announced at a later date.

"There was a tremendous turnout of children marching in the parade this year," Marchesi said. "It's a kids' parade, and it's nice to see so many come out."

Marchesi noted that this year's parade was the first to include participation by a group of disabled children. They rode in a school bus that had been deco-

rated to resemble a witch. The decoration was done by bus drivers and mechanics at the Pittsfield school bus garage, who donated their time and the necessary materials.

"We did it for the kids who don't often get a chance to go out trick-or-treating or to march in the parade," said Henry Bush, a mechanic at the garage.

Ghosts and ghouls on parade



Photos by Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Dracula's at the wheel of a 1959 Corvette? That's the way it was at last night's Halloween Parade in Pittsfield. By day the driver is Fred Oliver of Grooms Choice and Bridal Gallery downtown.

Cold limits crowd, but not spirits

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A damp chill appeared to have no effect on the spirits of spectators who lined downtown streets to watch the city's 51st Halloween Parade last night.

Police estimated the crowd at 10,000, less than half the number of people who turned out last year in mild and dry conditions.

"I think the threat of rain probably kept quite a few people home," said John C. Marchesi, director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. "Still, the rain held off until just after the parade, which was a blessing."

Scanner reports indicated that police had a few problems keeping determined motorists away from the parade route. Indeed, the driver of a luxury car with Connecticut license plates found himself in the line of march on North Street. Several spectators eyed the car — which had tinted glass — and one woman wondered aloud if ghostly figures were going to emerge. None did.

The Pittsfield High School band took top honors in the band competition, followed by Lee High School in second place and the Eagles Band in third.

In the float competition, an entry from the Berkshire Giant Pumpkin Growers, which featured a 725-pound pumpkin from Richmond that won a New

PARADE, continued on A4



Getting ready to march are, from left, Jen Scapin, 6, Nicole Mallory, 7, and Gina Parisi, 8.

11/1/95

Santa gets assistance from Pittsfield's North Pole operators

continued from page 1

know right where they are," Santa replied.

"I said we've got them on the Internet," Santa explained after hanging up. "He was very glad to hear that."

The volunteers work in teams, a Santa and Mrs. Claus (or North Pole operator). The Berkshire County Savings Bank main office, — the North Pole phone bank — was alive with the sound of "ho, ho, ho's, as the teams made their way through stacks of names.

The volunteers are instructed not to make any definite promises. But Santa always does the best he can. "My sleigh only has a certain amount of room," cautions Santa's helper Bob Hathaway. "I can't get everything in there but I know you're going to love what I bring for you."

Santa's knowledge impressed many kids. He asks them about their brothers and sisters — he even knows their pet's names. He knows how old they are and which school they go to. Santa's glad about all the snow we've had down here in Pittsfield, it makes good landings for his sleigh and the reindeer love it.

The volunteers keep a page nearby, instructing them on what to say. At

the bottom of the paper is written: "Just in Case: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen."

This is the 14th year the parks department has sponsored the North Pole phone calls. "This is a lot of fun," said parks director John

Marchesi. "Some of these volunteers have been doing it the whole time. We've had a great response."

Volunteers represented the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Babe Ruth League, Little League and the city's office of community development — about 24 volunteers in all.

The volunteers enjoy the talks little intimidated to get a call for Santa. nearly as much as the children — The North Pole operator waited for often sharing a call with others afterward, laughing. "The younger ones, they're the believers," said helper Bob Cornwell. "Once in a while you get the 'I love you Santa'." A little boy named Jacob was a

ment — about 24 volunteers in all. him and then finally talked to his father. "Oh sure, we'll call back later," she said. "I could hear him crying in the background," she explained to Santa. "Maybe he was too excited."

Hello from the North Pole

Santa's volunteer helpers phone Pittsfield youngsters

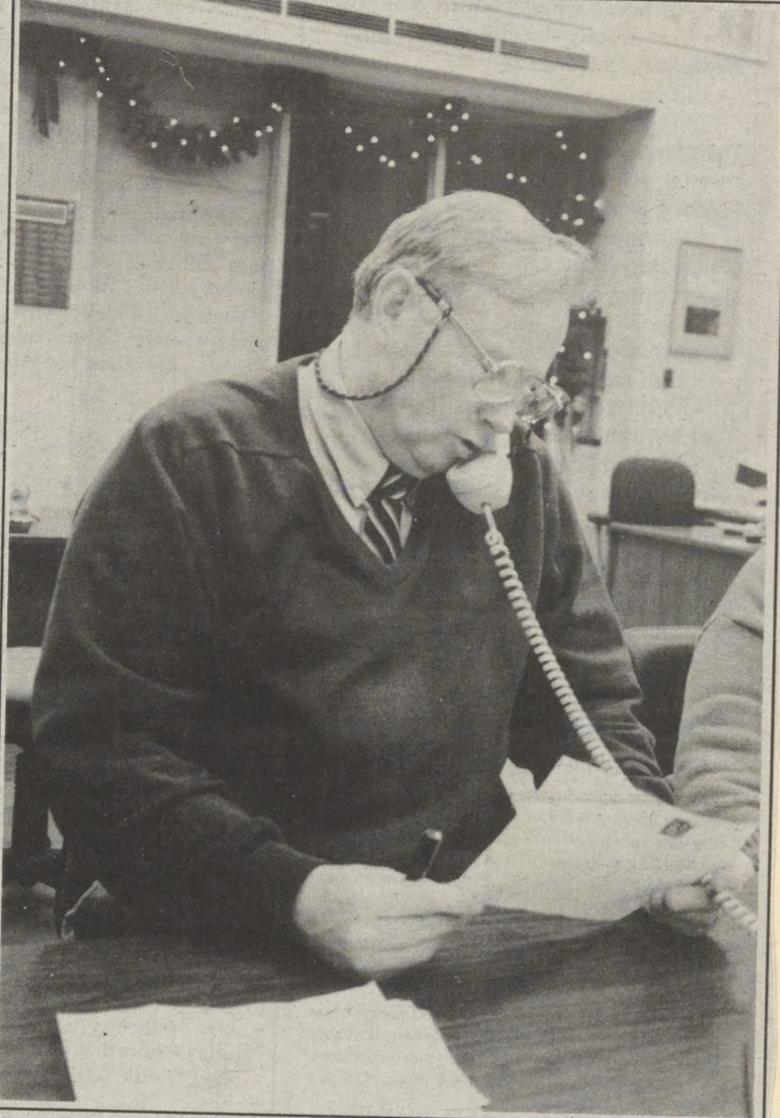
"I have a long-distance call from the North Pole," the operator said. "Santa would like to talk to you."

When St. Nick calls, you don't keep the big guy waiting. So dozens of Pittsfield kids dashed for phones Monday and Tuesday night to chat with Santa. With the help of the city's parks department and volunteers, Santa talked to nearly 600 kids.

The kids, mostly kindergarten to second grade age, reacted to a phone call from St. Nick in various ways. Some were overcome with shyness and had little to say to the jolly old elf. Others ran to the phone and jabbered on about the weather, their family and friends. "The kids get so excited," said helper Mary Holthouser.

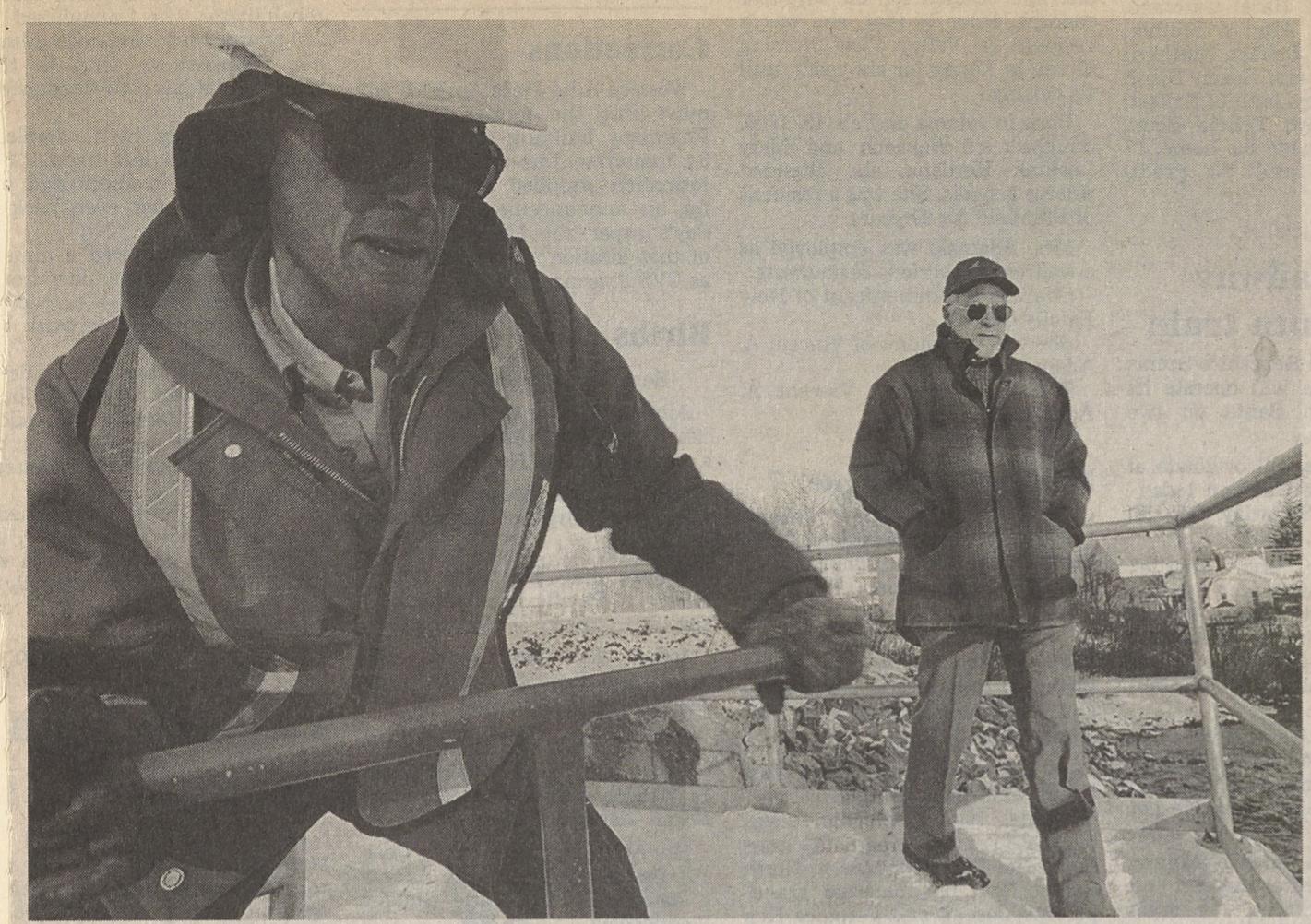
Some doubted that the voice on the other end of the phone belonged to Santa at all. "Try to convince him there is a Santa Claus," read a notation on one of the information sheet supplied by the parks department. Santa did his best to make a believer out of one skeptical boy named Matt but the boy reacted cautiously. "I think he wants to believe," Santa's helper John Gloria said after hanging up. "I think by the end of the call we may have convinced him."

A boy named Luka worried about his cousins, who had lived in Russia. Oh yes, Santa assured him, he's visited them in Russia many times before making the trip to the United States. But, Luka said, they've since moved to Toronto, Canada. Does Santa know where to find them? "I



Jim Hassett checks Santa's list during Monday's North Pole phone call session. Volunteers spent two nights calling city youngsters on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Claus. 12/14/95

See SANTA page 5



Scott Jarvis, the city's water director, turns key at new Onota Lake dam that opens drain to lower the water level. At right is Public Works Commissioner William Forestell.

12/9/95

Drawdown starts at Onota Lake

By Theo Stein
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — With a few twists of a T-handled key, the much-delayed and much-maligned drawdown of Onota Lake got under way yesterday as an environmental analyst from the Department of Environmental Protection looked on.

Timothy McKenna, an analyst with the DEP's Springfield office, told Public Works Commissioner William Forestell at the site that his department would review the emergency drawdown authorized by the Conservation Commission Thursday night and signed by Mayor Edward M. Reilly yesterday afternoon but would not stand in the city's way.

Scott Jarvis, the city's water director, opened a 24-inch drain pipe at the base of the new dam, augmenting the inch or so of water pouring over the 40-foot-wide spillway.

McKenna urged city officials to begin drafting a lake-management plan "tomorrow" to avoid a replay of this fall's contentious debate over the lake's level, which pitted environmentalists against property owners.

"You know you need a permit," he said. "So why wait?"

McKenna said that the acrimony could have been avoided with better planning by the city.

"I think it's a shame that we're standing here at this point having to choose between wildlife and flood control," McKenna said. "We could have had our cake and eaten it, too," he said.

Will affect wildlife

McKenna added that the 2½-foot drawdown would definitely impact the wetlands and associated wildlife habitat, but said he was uncertain about the extent. He speculated that the majority of organisms would be able to weather the winter. The early blanket of insulating snow, he said, might mitigate some of the freezing and drying to be expected in the exposed muds along the lake margins. And the impact would certainly be less than the 4-foot drawdown proposal.

Forestell said that the technical data the DEP would need to approve the plan could be provided by the hydrological study the city has committed \$20,000 to fund.

Property owners along Onota Lake used to depend on the

ONOTA, continued on B5

Onota from B1

annual drawdowns to repair their properties and protect them from ice-out in spring. Drawdowns allow winter cold to scour the shallows of accumulating weeds and lowering the lake level provides storage capacity for the spring freshet.

A 1991 study of the lake recommended a four-foot drawdown as the amount needed for adequate weed control.

But drawdowns have been suspended in recent years because of the impaired condition and then the repair of the 620-acre impoundment's dam.

High water levels left some residents with flooded basements and overworked sump pumps. Others found their lawns festooned with sewage flotsam when overburdened sanitary sewer lines surged.

The dam project was finished late enough this year to delay the city Conservation Commission from issuing an Order of Condi-

tions until mid-October. Given the season's drought, the need for a drawdown was questioned until heavy rains came that month.

The proposed Nov. 15 drawdown date would have come after wetland creatures had made their preparations for winter based on the existing water levels.

Two local residents appealed the decision in November over concerns about impacts to the wetlands and wildlife.

Last-minute appeal

One of the pair, Theresa Apple, of 854 Churchill St., braved the wintry gusts and made a last-ditch appeal to have McKenna block the drawdown.

She said she was still concerned about the city proceeding without the appropriate hydrological data. But McKenna said the DEP would abide by the city's emergency drawdown order.

Terry Plantier, the city Conservation Agent, suggested that lake

level could be lowered and wetland impacts lessened if the city blocked a culvert under Dan Casey Memorial Causeway.

"I'm not going to do that," Forestell said. "The water will overtop the causeway."

Ward 7 Councilor Joe Guzzo, who has held himself out as a proponent of compromise, said that the lack of drawdowns for the last several years has allowed new wetland habitats to spring up. "High water levels have allowed for the establishment of wetlands that we never had before."

Guzzo pledged to get working on the application right away.

"This dam is going to be here for 125 years," he said. "Let's address the issues and come up with a multi-year plan that allows us to do what we need to do when we need to do it."

"We don't need to have this tension between residents and the Conservation Commission and the city," he said. "Life is too short for that stuff."



Signs of Spring I

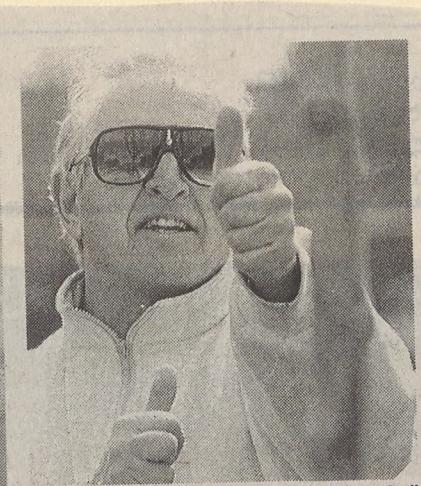
Charles Lowery, 10, spent yesterday afternoon shooting baskets at Osceola Park in Pittsfield with friends. The hoop, which is height-adjusted for kids, was close enough for a slam dunk on the balmy day where temperatures hit 60. Related picture, B1.



Signs of Spring II

Nicole Lowery, 7, the little sister of the basketball player pictured on Page A1, is jump-roping in the sunny, mild weather at Osceola Park, Pittsfield. At 60, the temperature was only seven degrees under the record for the day.

3/14/95



Photos by Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff
Plant 'em 4/30/95
Above, Tony Saccetti lines up a tree using his thumb at Park Square, just one of 11 trees planted yesterday under a grant to Pittsfield Beautiful. Bruce Milney, at left, an arborist from Dr. Lahey's Garden, and Matt Cyrilic deliver one to Memorial Park.

Pittsfield tennis program schedule set

The fifth annual Pittsfield Parks Department tennis program is set to commence June 26 and will run through Aug. 4. Locations for this year's tennis instruction include the courts at Lakewood Park, Herberg Middle School and Taconic High School.

Top area high school and college players trained by USTA and USPTA professionals David Bell and Dick Piretti will be in charge of the instruction. Players are asked to bring a tennis racket, although rackets will be made available. Light, loose-fitting clothes and sneakers also are encouraged.

Registrations postmarked by today will include a \$35 fee. Registration beyond the June 15 deadline will be \$40. The junior team, which has longer practice sessions and will play matches, will be assessed fees of \$48 and \$53, depending on when the player registers.

Hardship grants for partial or full fees are available. Applications are available at the Parks Department. Information including program, name, address, location site and home phone can be sent in with the registration fee.

Registrations and checks should be made payable to the Berkshire County Tennis Association, P.O. Box 3051, Pittsfield 01202.

For more information, one may contact Jeannie Bell at 499-2273. The following are sites and times for the tennis instruction programs:

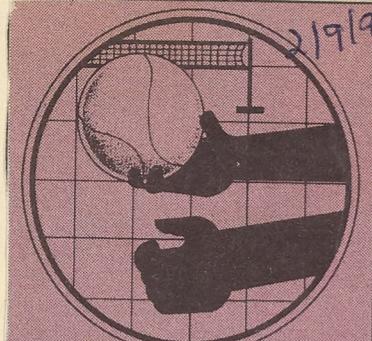
LAKEWOOD PARK

Beginners (age 6-10), Monday & Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Advanced beginners (age 11-18), Monday & Wednesday, 10-11 a.m.
Intermediate (age 11-18), Monday & Wednesday, 11-noon.
Junior team, Monday & Wednesday, 1-2:30 p.m.
Adult beginners, Monday & Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Adult intermediate, Monday & Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

HERBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Beginners (age 6-10), Tuesday & Thursday, 9-10 a.m.
Advanced beginners (age 11-18), Tuesday & Thursday, 10-11 a.m.
Intermediate (age 11-18), Tuesday & Thursday, 11-noon.
TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL
Beginners (age 6-10), Tuesday & Thursday, 1-2 p.m.
Advanced beginners (age 11-18), Tuesday & Thursday, 2-3 p.m.

4/15/95



2/19/95 Volleyball buff serves up plan for city event

A volleyball promoter hopes to stage a regional tournament in Pittsfield the first weekend in May.

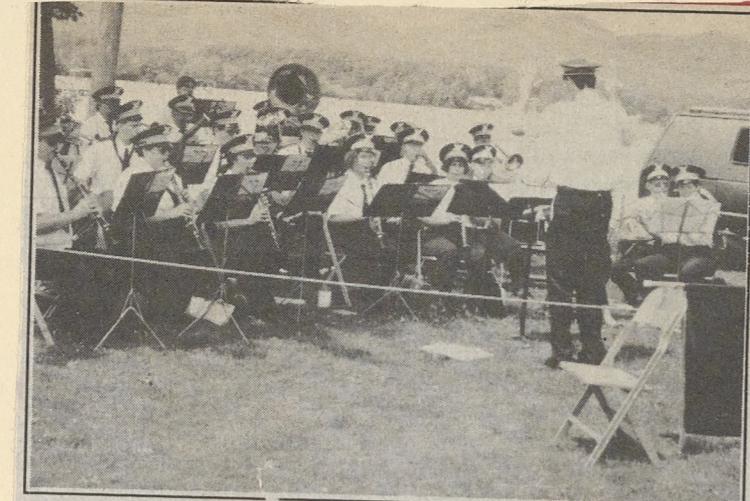
Bradley Van Dussen of Shot Block Volleyball in Newtonville wants to include the city in his company's 1995 Bud Light New England Volleyball Series, which features two-day tournaments throughout the region.

"This would be great," said Bob Smith, a member of the city parks commission. "We're always looking to bring people into Pittsfield."

According to Van Dussen, each stop on the tour attracts between 100 and 200 players from New York, New England and Canada. While competitors come from throughout the region, local teams may also participate.

Van Dussen attended Monday's parks commission meeting to inquire about using a municipal site.

See VOLLEYBALL page 9



The Eagles Band has presented free concerts in various city parks. A proposed bandstand would provide a base for various performing groups — while also recognizing local veterans.

2/19/95 City bandstand plan again making noise

Long dormant plans for a community bandstand are gaining momentum with an ad hoc committee exploring funding and location options.

Local veterans groups, the Eagles Band and members of the parks commission are joining forces to determine the project's feasibility.

"I don't think the veterans can raise it or the Eagles can or the city alone," said Lawrence Caprari, "but if we put all three of our heads together, we might raise the money."

Caprari, longtime director of municipal veteran services, is among a group of veterans leaders who have informally explored the bandstand concept in recent years.

According to Jim Riddle of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the project was initially conceived as both a community centerpiece and a commemoration of local veterans' contributions during World War II.

"We have been interested as part of the World War II thing but interest kind of died down a bit," said Riddle.

The impetus to get the project rolling again has come from the Eagles Band which would like a home for outdoor performances.

2/19/95 — See BANDSTAND page 17

2/19/95 Volleyball event planned

continued from page 1
for the tournament. Commission members said that would be acceptable if the city solicitor approved the arrangement, but they suggested several non-city owned fields that might better host the tournament.

Commissioners suggested that the promoter inquire about using non-municipal fields at Berkshire Community College, the Softball Complex or the YMCA's Ponterill facility. If none of those work out, chairman Anthony Massimiano said he would investigate if the tournament could be held at a public park.

Van Dussen said that his circuit currently ranges from Old Orchard Beach in Maine to southeast Connecticut, concentrating on beach locations. "I haven't moved this far west yet, but there has been a lot of interest," he said. An event last year in Holyoke attracted enough teams to necessitate 17 volleyball nets.

Entry fees range from \$30 to \$40 per team, with cash prizes in the most competitive category and pro-

motional awards for other levels. Though Bud Light is the official corporate sponsor, Van Dussen said no beer is sold or served at the event.

"This is a serious event," he said. "It's a very, very competitive sport." The tournament usually coordinates with a local restaurant for a post-event party, he noted.

"The benefit to the community is that you get about 250 people with money in their pockets to spend for the weekend," said Van Dussen.

Van Dussen arrives at the site of the tournament on Friday to set up fields. Saturday is the main day, with between ten and twenty nets set up for men's and women's doubles competition. Sunday features co-ed doubles and four player teams.

Parks commission member Paula Virgilio said the event comes at a time when volleyball leagues are gaining popularity locally. "It's really a great idea," she said.

For information on upcoming tournaments, Shot Block Volleyball maintains a hotline: 617-455-1928.



Joel Libitz / Berkshire Eagle Staff

1/17/95

On a stroll

Mist rises above Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield as two women take a dog for a walk on the soggy hillside Sunday.

The Pittsfield Gazette, February 9, 1995

2/19/95 Bandstand proponents form committee

continued from page 1

According to Diane Nichols, the group thinks a bandstand could be used by different performing groups and as a site for community festivals.

"Maybe the time is right for a bandstand in Pittsfield," Nichols said. "The Eagles Band has experienced a resurgence in the last three years and in 1996 will celebrate our sixtieth anniversary ... so this would be great for us."

Nichols said the band members realize the project is beyond the scope of anything they could accomplish or maintain themselves. But she said that it could be of great benefit to the entire community, provided financing and a suitable location are found.

Riddle said that dedicating the bandstand as a veterans memorial would be a fitting tribute. He also said this would help with fundraising as local veterans' groups could participate in the project.

Anthony Massimiano, chairman of the parks commission, said his group can't promise any financial support but would enthusiastically endorse the concept.

Riddle said that he expects costs upwards of \$20,000. He said that an all-metal "Victorian-type gazebo shell" is the best option in terms of acoustics and vandalism prevention.

"It sounds like a great idea," Massimiano said. "I would suggest you contact the community development office about possible grant-writ-

ing."

Commission member Rick Scapin said the idea is excellent. He made a case for trying to place the bandstand at Springside Park: "The atmosphere is just great here."

Bob Smith said he would "push for downtown ... I could see it as a hub for festivals."

Commission member Paula Virgilio was appointed parks commission liaison to the veterans/Eagles Band committee that is exploring the project. She will also raise the topic with Mayor Edward Reilly, who has expressed support for the concept.

"The question is the location," said Reilly. "This could be a great monument of the fifties anniversary of the war rather than a statue."

City councilor Fran Marinaro said that he thinks councilors would be willing to appropriate funds for the project if the committee comes up with a viable plan and financial support.

"The meatiest package you can present, the better," said Marinaro.

The bandstand committee will continue to investigate the project and plans to update the parks commission on progress in April.

2/19/95 Eagles Band sets open rehearsals

PITTSFIELD — In preparation for its summer season, the Eagles Band will hold an open rehearsal, Thursday, May 11, at 7 p.m. in the music room of Herberg Middle School. All band instrumentalists, including district-level students Grade 8 and above, have been invited to attend.

According to an announcement, the band is especially interested in recruiting woodwind players — flute, clarinet, saxophone and double reed. French horn players are needed in the brass section.

Diane Nichols, publicity director, said marching is not a requirement for participation in the band. Musicians who are interested in concert band repertoire are encouraged to participate, she said.

The 50-piece Eagles Concert Band presents an annual "Concert in the Park" series, to be held this summer at Springside House. New this year is a select Brass Ensemble, which recently performed its debut concert at Berkshire Community College.

Lyndon Moors, band director at Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, is the conductor of the Eagles Band.

Founded in 1936, the Eagles Band claims to be the oldest continuing performing ensemble in Berkshire County. More information may be obtained by calling Nichols at 447-8334 or Richard Paul at 499-2071.

3/18/95 Men's softball meeting tomorrow

The Berkshire County Men's Slow Pitch Softball League has scheduled its first organizational meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at Springside House, 874 North St.

The agenda will include discussion of league finances, entry fees, fund-raisers, rule changes, league bylaws, advertising, tournament schedules and improvements at the Berkshire County Softball Complex.

New teams are welcome, and anyone interested in entering a team in the league should attend.

3/18/95 Eagles Band to hold 2nd concert in series

PITTSFIELD — The second concert in the Eagles Band "Concert in the Park" series will be Tuesday at 7 p.m. on the lawn of Springside House, 874 North St.

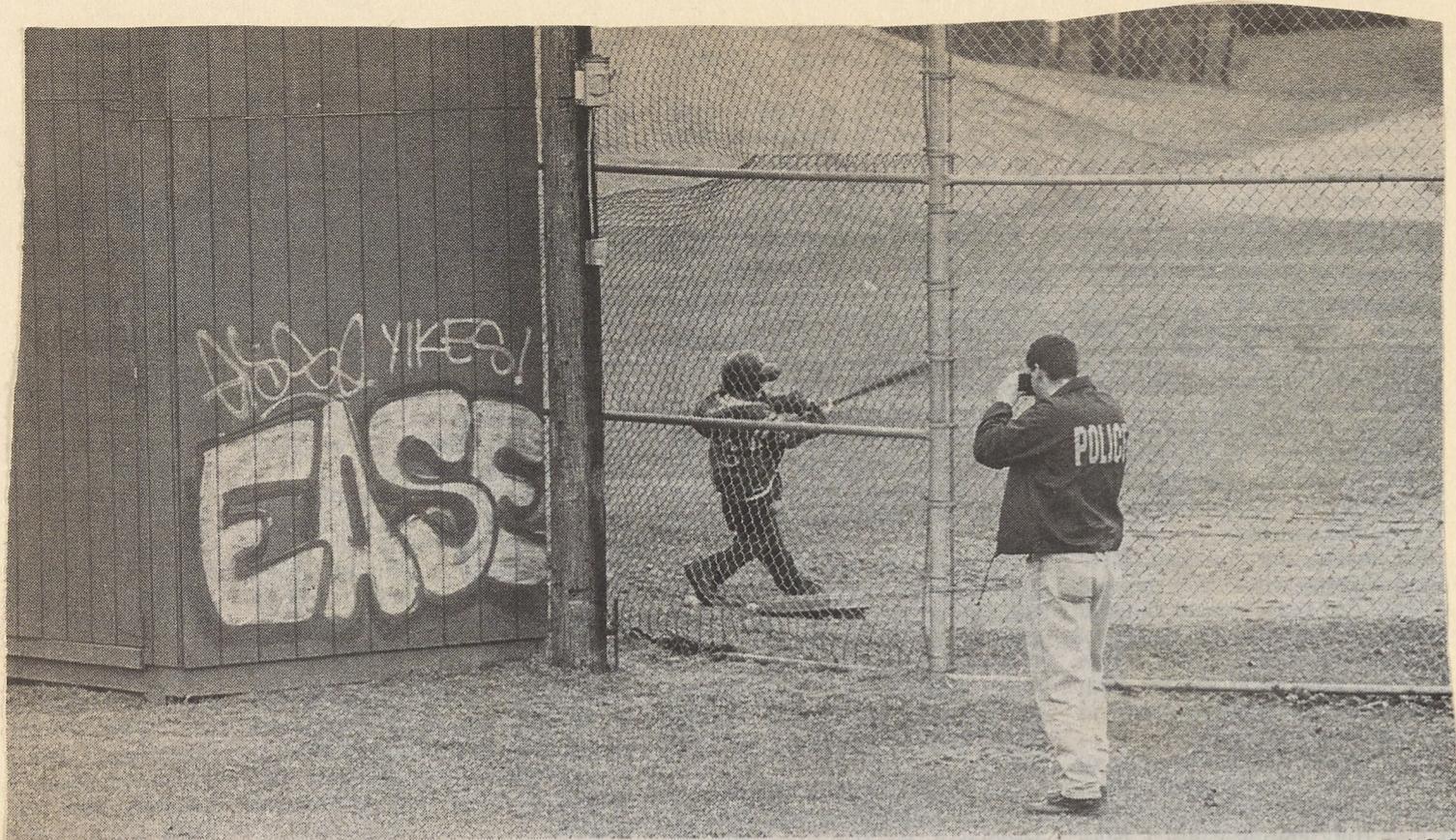
In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the Berkshire Atheneum.

Conductor Lyndon Moors will lead the band in a program of marches, Broadway and movie music, light classics, and wind band literature. The Eagles Band Brass Ensemble will perform several selections.

In conjunction with its "Concert in the Park" series, the Eagles Band is holding a fund-raiser to benefit its uniform fund and general operating fund. More information may be obtained by calling band treasurer Martin Huban at 443-9157.

Celebrating its 59th anniversary, the Eagles Band is the oldest continuing performing ensemble in the Berkshires.

7/6/95



Police Officer Gary W. Belknap photographed graffiti behind home plate at Clapp Park in Pittsfield

yesterday as police started their hunt for the city's masters of tag vandalism.

3/19/95

'Taggers' spray on their signatures

Police start anti-graffiti battle

By Susan Etkind
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Under cover of night, spray paint cans in hand, Slap, Sex, Doom, Lush and Jack Pot leave their mark on buildings, bridges, trucks and trash cans.

Real names are never used and the identity of the "taggers" may remain secret, except to a small group of fellow "taggers" and others in the know.

But Pittsfield Police officers Mark G. Bushey and Gary W. Belknap are hoping to put an end to the secrecy that surrounds tagging and, by doing so, help stop the proliferation of graffiti in the city.

Yesterday, as the first step in an anti-graffiti campaign announced earlier this month by Mayor Edward M. Reilly, the two officers toured the city with an unusual weapon in hand — a camera. Every time they saw graffiti on a wall, a rock or anywhere else, they snapped a picture.

The strategy is to compile evidence and begin to gather information about who the city's taggers are. The officers can then develop cases that can be prosecuted in court, or perhaps work out an arrangement where the taggers clean up their handiwork.

Bushey, who is assigned to the city's high schools, and Belknap, who works in the middle schools, already have a good idea of who some of the taggers are.

But their photographic tour of the city, which uncovered graffiti in several neighborhoods, surprised even Bushey.

TAGGER, continued on B4

City tagging isn't a gang action

By Susan Etkind
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Scrawled on the side of the Elm Street hardware store is graffiti that reads, "It's not a gang thing."

Pittsfield Police share that sentiment — that graffiti in the city is not gang-related — but they are keeping a careful eye on it as an early and reliable indicator of whether gangs from Springfield have started to take hold here.

"Walls are the internet of gangs," said Capt. Walter M. Boyer.

"Graffiti is the newspaper of the street," said Officer Mark G. Bushey.

Unwanted migration

Bushey and Boyer, who teach about gangs in Western Massachusetts at the Police Academy in Agawam, stress that they have not seen any gang activity. But they are concerned that more aggressive law enforcement in the Springfield area could lead gang members to migrate here.

Springfield has had a surge in gang-related violence recently, and Gov. William F. Weld last week pledged \$1.2 million to local law enforcement. In February alone, four people were killed and three injured in gang-linked shootings.

Boyer explained that the gang problem worsened in Springfield when aggressive law enforcement pushed gangs out of some Connecticut cities, including Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven, in the early 1990s.

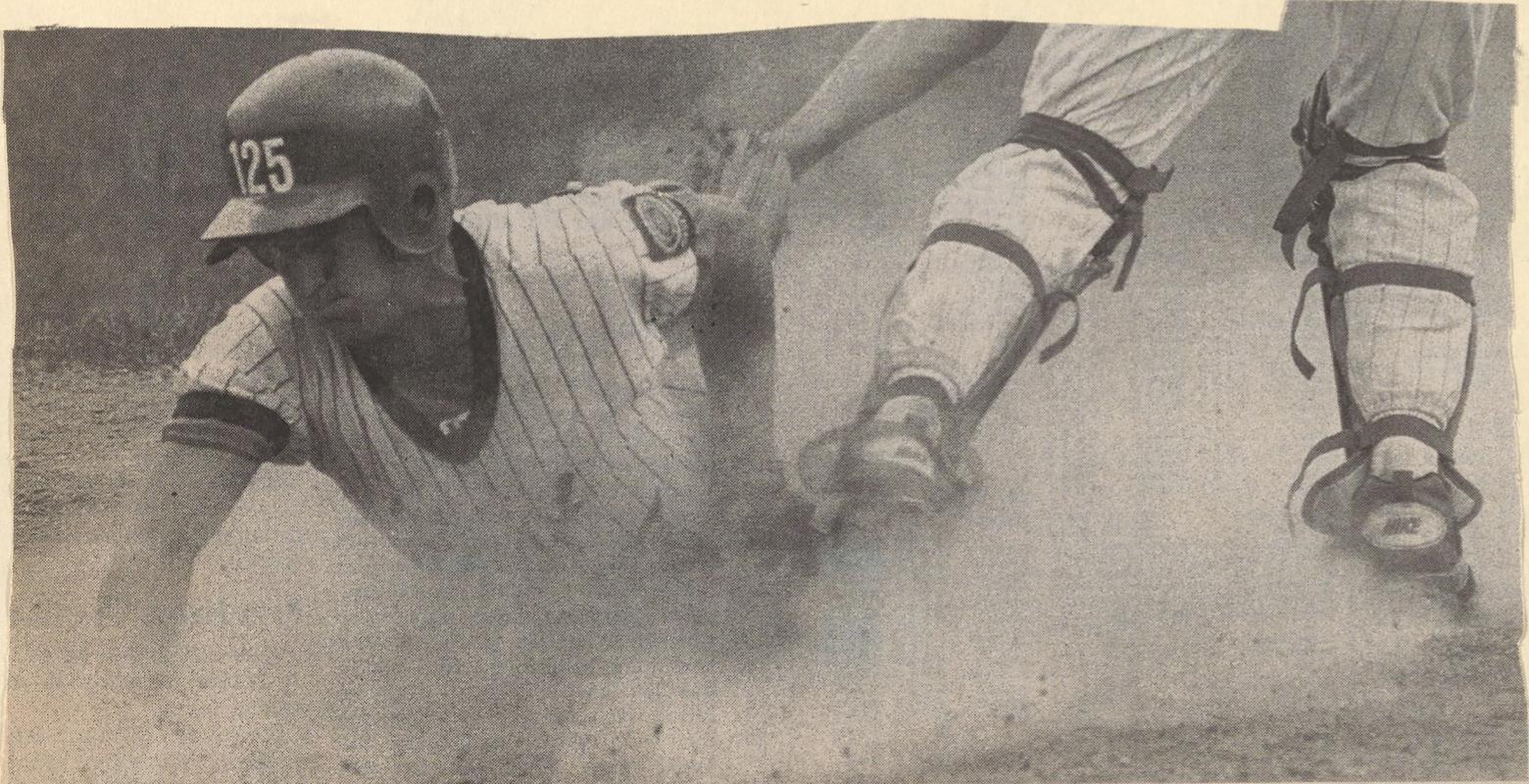
GANG, continued on B4



Look who's back in town

Former major league pitcher Jeff Reardon, right, obliges an autograph request from 6-year-old Kayla Lekov, left, during Kimberley Voin Day yesterday at the Pittsfield Common. Reardon was also one of six people elected yesterday to the UNICO/Berkshire County Baseball Hall of Fame. Story, Page C3.

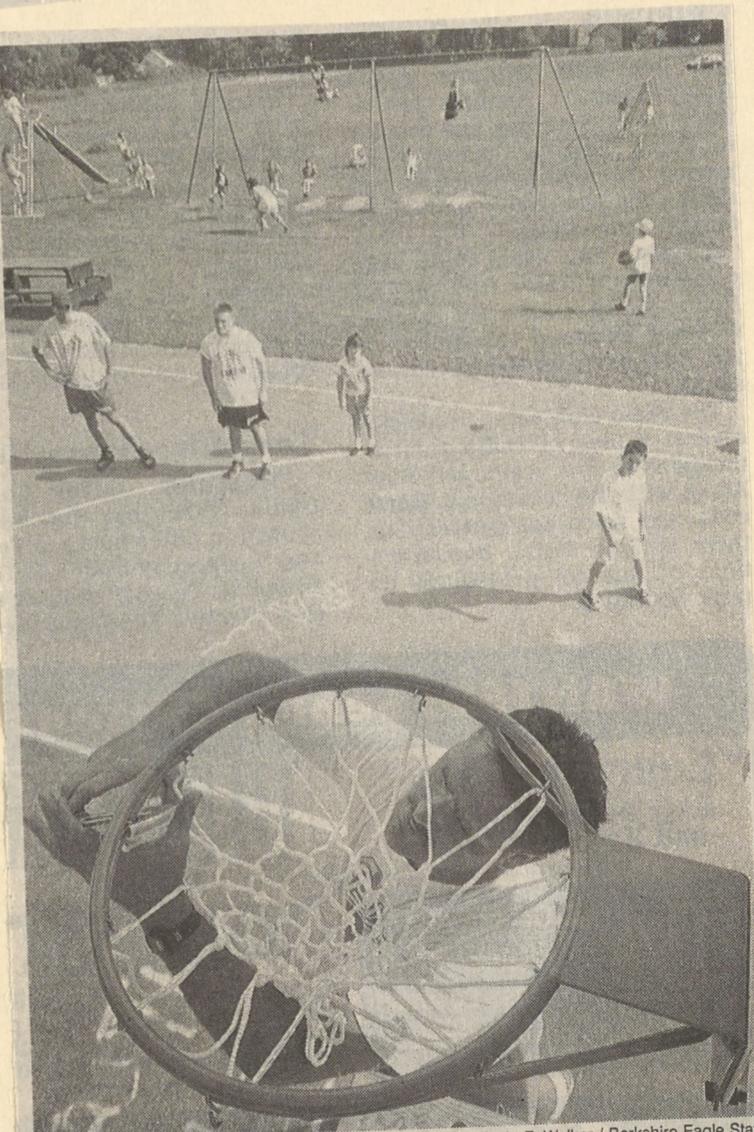
Bob McDonough / Berkshire Eagle Staff



Paying the price

Taking a faceful of dirt, North Adams runner Nick Modena, left, scores ahead of the tag by Post 68 catcher Bobby Mack in second inning of last night's game at Clapp Park. Post 68 won, 4-3. Story, other photo, Page C3.

7/7/95



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff
Vincent Barbarotta puts up a net at the basketball court in Osceola Park, which he and neighbors brought back from the dead.

6/24/94



Police Officer Mark Bushey took a look at graffiti on North Street yesterday during a citywide photographic survey of the vandalism.

Police battle graffiti

■ TAGGER, from B1

"I'm amazed at the stuff I'm seeing," he said. "There are more people involved than I thought."

Hard to catch

He and Belknap agreed that most of the taggers they know are in their teens or early 20s. There are not a lot of middle school taggers, they said.

The anti-graffiti effort may depend in large part on how successful the officers are in gathering information. Because tagging is generally done at night and may be accomplished quickly, "to catch them in the act is very difficult," Bushey said.

Also, new taggers may take up a paint can and others may move on to other activities, creating an ever-changing cast.

Reilly said the campaign will combine public awareness, a citywide graffiti removal effort, and the state's tough new graffiti laws.

For example, under the new laws, offenders can be sentenced to jail or have their driver's licenses taken away. Those too young to drive will have one year added to the minimum age when they apply for a license.

In addition, a city ordinance prohibits the sale of spray paint to youths under the age of 18. Fines for the merchants range from \$50 for a first offense to \$300 for a third offense.

Although graffiti irritates and angers businesspeople, homeowners and politicians, some teenagers take quite a different view.

"It looks nice, doesn't it?" remarked one Taconic High School student who was playing basket-

ball in Clapp Park, which has its share of graffiti.

He and three friends — all of whom are between the ages of 14 and 16 and didn't want their names used — said that while they personally were not taggers, they knew people who were.

"Some people do it to get a message across because no one is listening," said one boy.

Others simply have nothing else to do, said another.

Still others are artists who want others to see their work, said a third boy.

Police are concerned, however, that graffiti in a neighborhood sends a message to residents and visitors that no one cares what happens to that neighborhood, and that leads to increased mischief and criminal activity.

Police Capt. Walter M. Boyer said the mayor is determining how the city will go about cleaning up the graffiti and who will bear the cost.

Reilly has said that he wants to clean up the graffiti as quickly as possible.

"The quicker you get the stuff off the wall, the better," Belknap said. "Then they don't have the pleasure of having their work seen."

The campaign against graffiti is not the city's first. In 1985, Mayor Charles L. Smith called the proliferation of graffiti "discouraging and disgusting" and vowed to clean up the graffiti and launch an educational program in the schools. A proposal to enact an ordinance prohibiting the sale of spray paint to those under 18 — similar to the one now in effect — did not garner any support.

Gangs are made up of leaders and core members, called "O.G.'s" for "Old Gangsters," marginal members and gang wannabes.

■ GANG, from B1

The same elements that have made Pittsfield attractive to drug dealers from New York and other cities could also prove to be a magnet for gang members, many of whom are involved in the drug trade, he said. Those elements include the lucrative drug market and the abundance of inexpensive and abandoned housing. Another avenue into the community is through correctional facilities, Boyer said, and police are also working with the sheriff's department.

Other small cities have begun to feel the effects, he said. In Greenfield, a town of 20,000 people, Patrolman David Payant said, "We have had some influx of people and we are starting to experience some isolated incidents." The influx has been from Springfield, Holyoke and Chicopee, he said. "It's nothing like you see in the city," Payant added. "We haven't had drive-by shootings. But we are always concerned about the problem increasing."

Meanwhile, police officers here are working on a number of efforts to keep the city's "immune system" strong, according to Boyer. They include prevention and intervention programs, such as officers in the schools, collaborative programs with area organizations, such as the Boys' and Girls' Club, the DARE summer camp and other initiatives designed to target kids who might be vulnerable to gang and other influences.

Gangs are made up of leaders and core members, called "O.G.'s" for "Old Gangsters," marginal members and gang wannabes.

Gangs not tagging walls

continued from page 1

Dufresne. "We could use less television now."

In April, Officer Gary W. Belknap, who works in the middle schools, and DARE Officer Kim Bertelli-Supranowicz will attend a gang-education seminar.

"What we're doing now is making sure our communication network is in place," said Bushey, referring to the efforts that have been made to link Pittsfield Police, social service, law enforcement and recreational agencies. Pittsfield Police are also in touch with police in Springfield.

In 1992, two local gangs, the 40-Ouncers and UNLV, gained notoriety when 20 or 30 youths attacked another group of youths who had been playing basketball in Deming Park. "If they're out there, they're not showing up as much as before," said Boyer, who called them "local free-standing" groups. He added that some of the youths that participated in the 40-Ouncers and UNLV might be likely candidates to join displaced urban gangs if they surface here.



Tuesday's Eagles Band "Concert in the Park" at Springside attracted nearly 150 people including: Lynne Cholakis, Crystal Fox, John Fox Jr., Arlene Santiago and Matthew Peter Fox. The band will also offer free concerts on July 25 and August 22.

6/27/95

Eagles Band returns to Springside

One little boy — perhaps a future musician — mimicked conductor Lyndon Moor for several songs to the delight of the audience.

The concert was held on a sloping lawn next to the Springside House. Tuesday evening was a little chilly for summer; some of the audience covered up with the blankets they brought for sitting on.

"This is a beautiful area," said James Pero. "I think it's nicer than Park Square."

Three planned

Tuesday's free concert was the first in a three concert series. "We'd like to make it a permanent part of what's happening in Berkshire County," said band member Diane Nichols.

Nichols said the group is always looking for talented musicians — either adults or high school students — who would like to join the band.



The Eagles Band returned to Springside Park on Tuesday night to launch a series of free outdoor concerts.

6/27/95

Eagles Band resumes free parks concerts

By Anthony Fyden

Nothing quite typifies small town America like a summer band concert in the park.

The music wafts across green lawns while families sit in small groups, lazily enjoying familiar melodies. Children play or dance. It's a perfect opportunity to reminisce.

Nearly 150 people enjoyed such a concert Tuesday evening at Springside Park. The Eagles Band, known for its marching music, demonstrated a nostalgic and playful side.

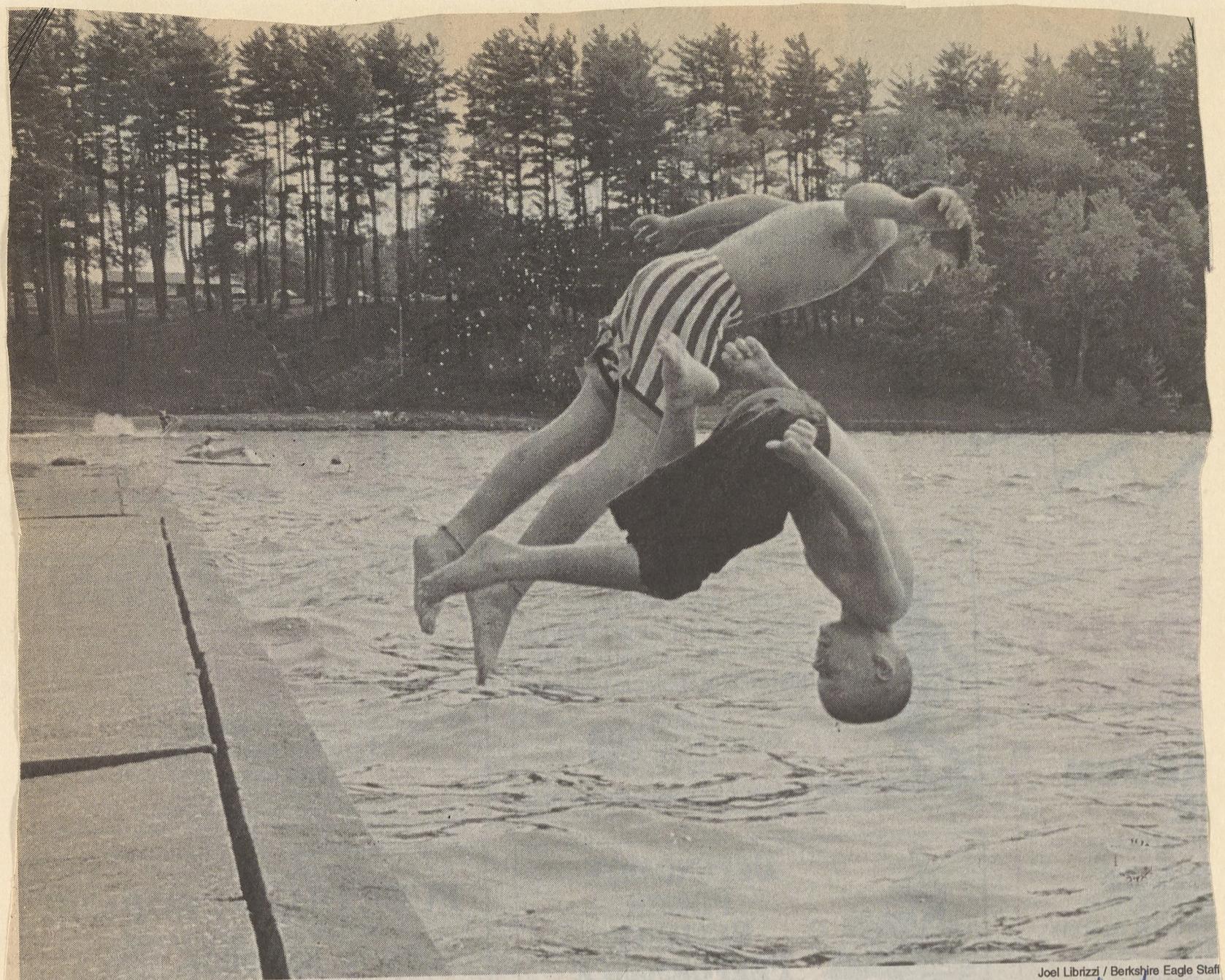
"We used to go years ago when they used to have them right in Park Square," said Ray Dufresne. "I think this is great for the city."

Dufresne sat with his wife and his mother watching the concert from lawn chairs. The music, muffled by the rich grass and surrounding trees, allows for conversation without shouting. "There was less television then so more people would come to the park," recalls Marion

See EAGLES page 5



Off Mill Street, the whole side of a building has been spray-painted by taggers.

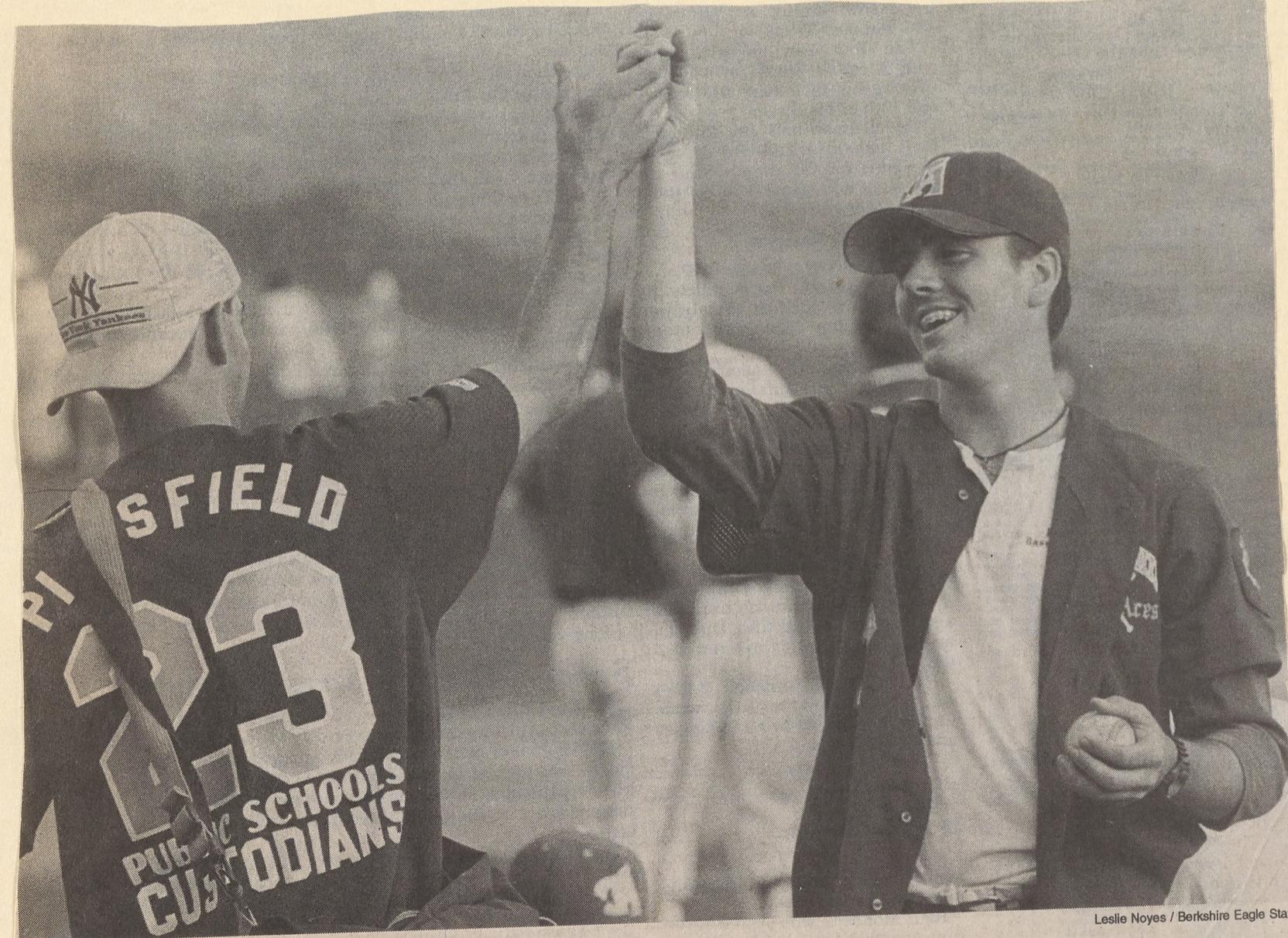


Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

6/5/95

Cool, cool water

Charles Best, 11, at left, and Steve Signor, 8, test the waters at Pontoosuc Lake yesterday. Warm temperatures made the dip a temptation the Pittsfield youths couldn't pass up.



Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

7/28/95

Kevin Steele, right, clutches the game ball and gets a high five from Friendship Aces teammate Shaun Liccardi after getting a pinch hit during last night's American Legion

game at Clapp Park. Steele, who had missed the entire season with a hip injury, got a single as a pinch hitter in his first at-bat of the season.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

6/4/95

Banding together

Still nameless, this recently formed musical group was practicing some original music at Kirvin Park last week.

Matt Sloane, left, and Stan Pyrzynowski play guitar, with Josh Fleishmann on the conga drums.

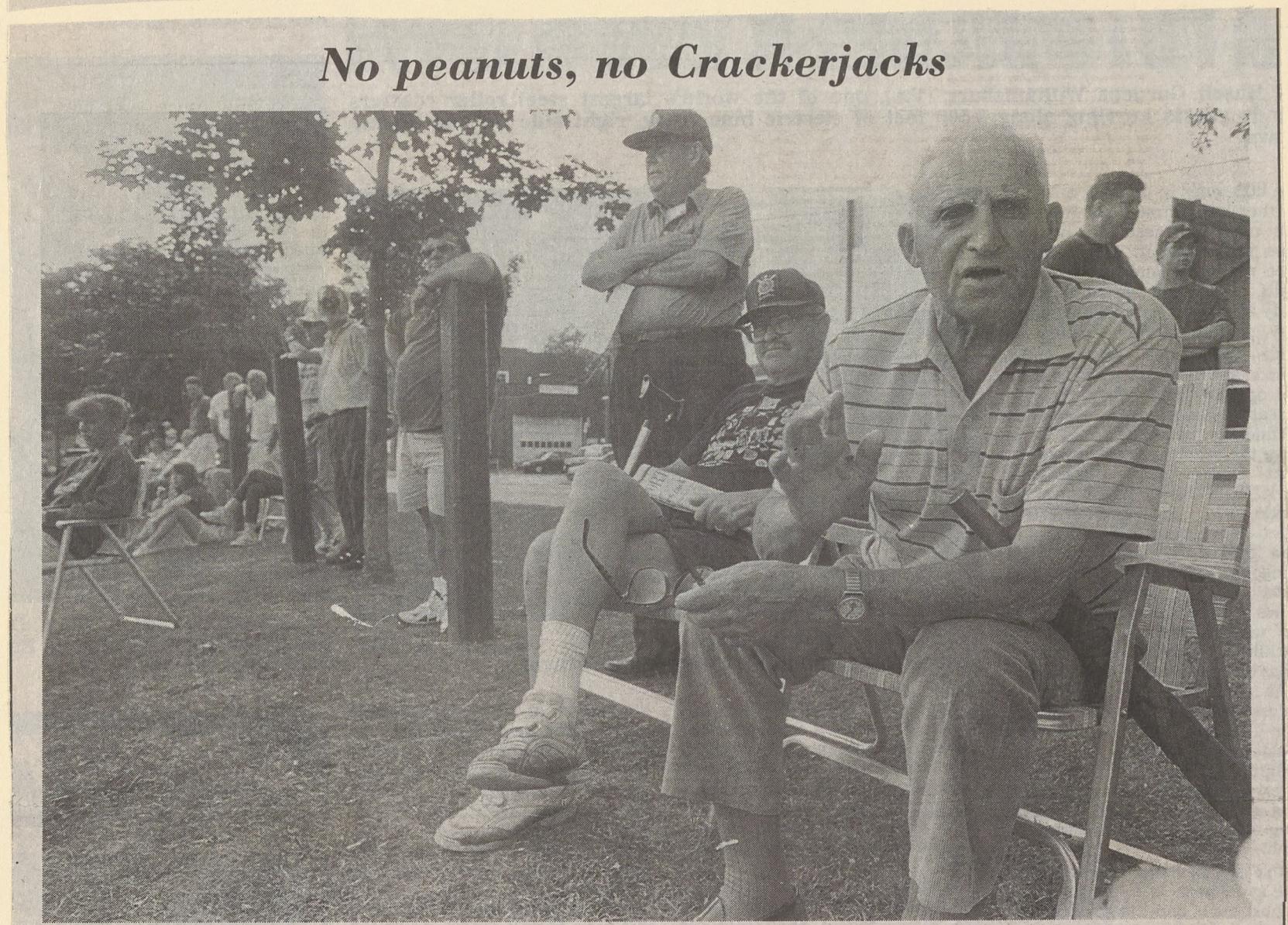


Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

10/25/95

Taking in the view

Courtland Tucker of Pittsfield enjoys the sun and fresh air at Clapp Park yesterday.



Photos by Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

7/30/95

Former coach and player Nato Cianfarini, 82, is a faithful lawn chair fan at American Legion games at Clapp Park. Beside him is George Bird.



Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

In his regular place at a Clapp Park Legion game, Joe Harrison, second from right, has been addicted to baseball since 1929 when he watched games through the Wahconah Park fence.

7130195

■ Fans from E1

Pittsfield Mets game."

Harrison watched a minor altercation over a call down on the field. "When in doubt, call 'em out," he said, laughing at what he said was an old umpire maxim. "The game goes faster."

Harrison said he favors Legion action because of the competitiveness. The two Pittsfield teams, especially, he said, waged a battle for supremacy that was worth the price of admission — free, but a hat is passed — all year.

Harrison said his love affair with baseball dated back to 1929, when he used to watch games through a hole in the fence at the just-opened Wahconah Park. Come the seventh inning, he said, they'd let the kids in. Years of semipro ball, then 38 years as an umpire with the Legion league, followed.

When he goes to Mets games these days, Harrison often sits with Fred Aldrich, who on this night is sitting beside him at Clapp. Nearby, Bill Fields kept an eye on the action, but maintained he was there primarily for the company.

"I come to listen to all Joe's stories," he said.

Up the field a way sit Ed Carroll

'Ninety percent of the American major league players compete in American Legion ball.'

— George Bird

and Joe Amerio. Legion, said Amerio, is baseball the way it used to be.

"The kids are at least trying," he said. "They're not out there being million-dollar ballplayers."

The only problem with the league that Amerio sees is that, with playoff season here, it's winding down too quickly.

"They should have it till September," he said. "What're you going to do, sit home and watch television?"

"Yeah, and wait for football season," Carroll said.

Carroll said he's been coming to Legion games "all my life, and I'm old enough — it's easily 50 years."

Attendance is down, overall, for Legion and everything else, Carroll said, noting people's busy schedules these days.



Photo by William H. Tague

Bleachers and a scoreboard were once part of the Clapp Park scene. Bicycles, felt hats and baggy baseball pants give some sense of the old days to this photo.

The Clapp Park crowd was bigger than usual for the Lanesboro/Friendship Aces playoff games last week, the men said wistfully. That's the way it used to be, all the time.

"Back then, we were the only game in town," Bird said. "We got a lot of people to the games, years ago."

Old-timers love 'real' game

By Lynne A. Daley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

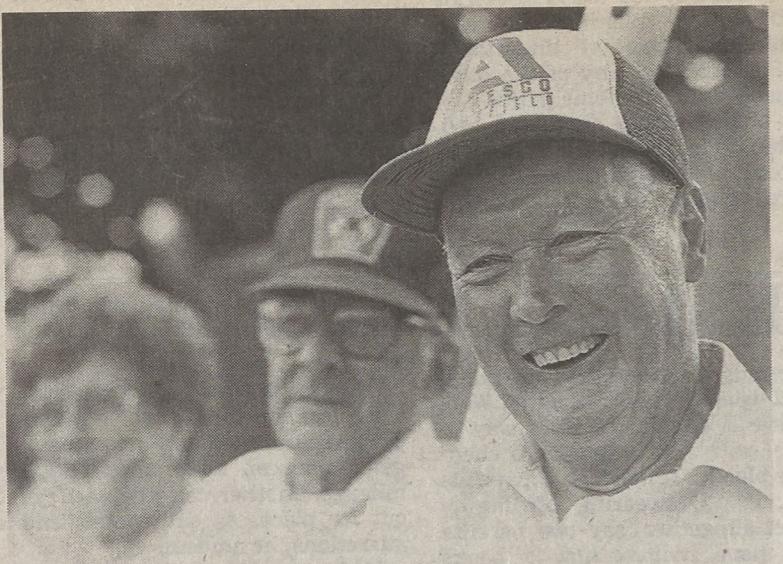
PITTSFIELD — Forget major leaguers with their million-dollar paychecks, or even the wannabes who populate the minor leagues.

Real baseball — where you hear teammates' exhortations from the open-air benches, every exchange between umpire and coach and the players' frequent grunts of effort — is best found at American Legion baseball games, the 70-year-old summer league of teen-age ballplayers.

It's a secret known to more than a few die-hard baseball fans, whose white hair and lined faces give away what their youthful enthusiasm for the game belies: They've been at the baseball business for a long time.

You may have stopped by Clapp Park on a sunny summer evening during an American Legion game and glanced at the bank, near the road. That's where many of the old-timers sit, alternately basking in the glow of the young talent before them and reminiscing about the stars who played between those same foul lines years before.

Nato Cianfarini, 82, is a Legion legend. A former Post 68 coach back in 1960 when the team he coached with George



Joe Harrison goes to the Legion game, goes home for supper, then heads for the Mets game at Wahconah Park.

"Red" Pleu was nationally ranked, he's also remembered as one of the best umpires by the league every had.

Cianfarini, by his own admission, may be found "wherever there's baseball."

He made it to both the Babe Ruth and Legion playoffs last week and even finds time to squeeze in a Mets game now and then. But to him, there's no equal to the Legion league.

"Ninety percent of the Amer-

ican major league players compete in American Legion ball," he said, citing local standouts Jeff Reardon and Dan Duquette in almost the same breath as legends Ted Williams and Bobby Doerr. Other names tossed about frequently include pro ballplayers Tom Grieve, Mark Belanger and Russ Quetti and local standouts Dale Long and Art Ditmar. Coaches Jimmy Rivers and Buddy Pellerin figured in the chatter, as well.

But if the big leagues are out of reach for most of the kids on the field, the league serves other purposes, Bird said. "It keeps kids off the street, teaches them about discipline," he said. "It's a good influence."

There are five Legion teams in the county league. For the first time ever, North Adams — which is home to a team of its own — will host the state tournament next summer, said Bird, a Legion player himself back in 1951.

Already, the appetites are whetted for the state tourney. Seventy-six-year-old Joe Harrison is one fan who'll be there, God willing.

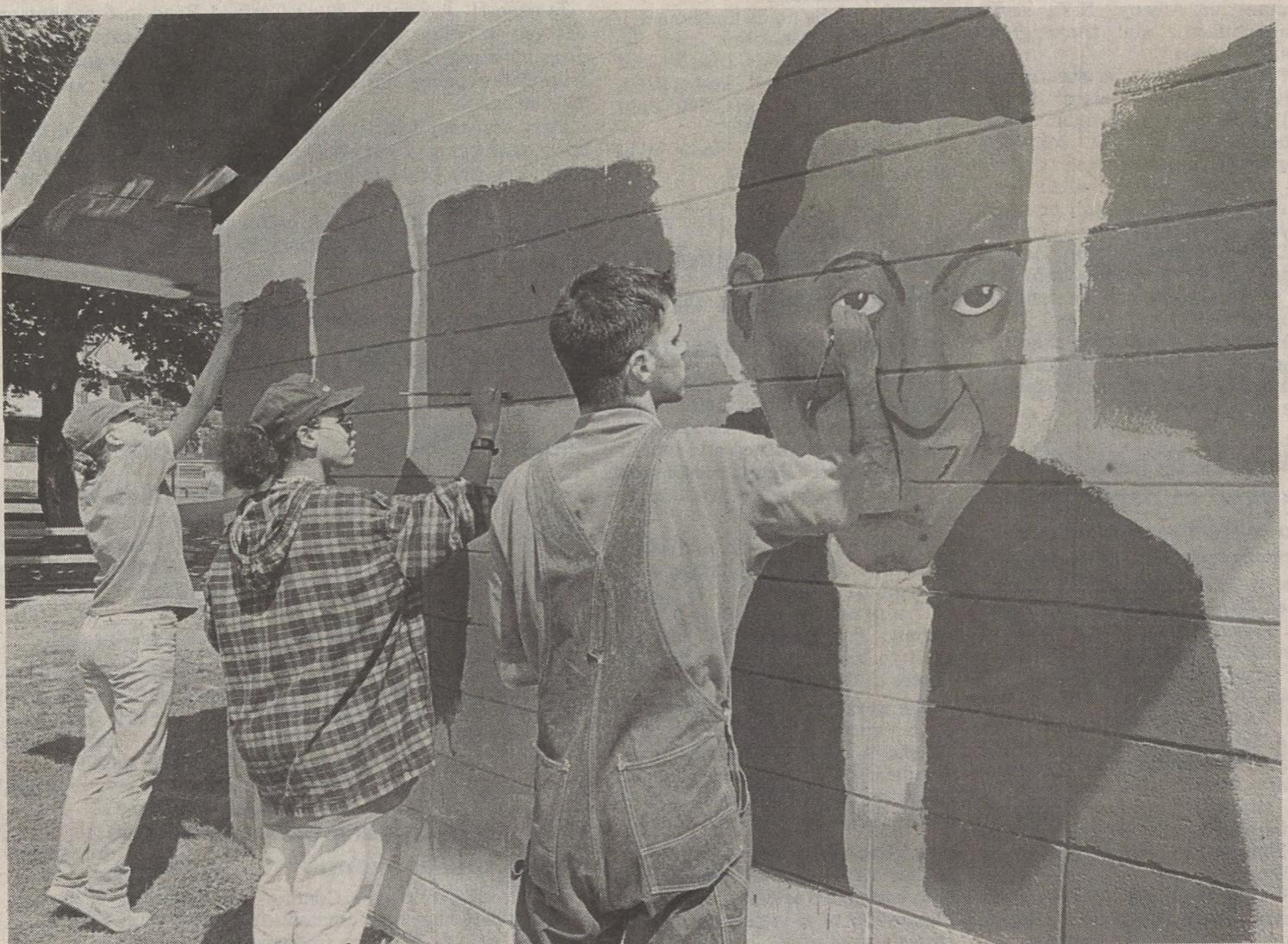
"I go to every game," said Harrison, another Legion scion and former umpire. "I go home, have supper, then go to the

FANS, continued on E4

Famous figures

8/24/95

Instructors in the Christian Center's summer camp at Conte Community School are completing mural on Pitt Park band shell that was begun as a camp project. Youngsters selected notable African-Americans as the mural's subject. Eric Drury works on portrait of former Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass., in foreground, while Caroline Kelly, left, and Faith Durant lay foundations for what will be portraits of historian and civil rights leader W.E.B. Du Bois; the Rev. Samuel Harrison, pastor of Pittsfield's Second Congregational Church during the Civil War; Margaret Hart of Williamstown, the first African-American schoolteacher in Pittsfield, and Frank T. Walker of Pittsfield, a leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People during the 1960s.



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff



Photos by Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Sliders head down the hill yesterday at Burbank Park. In front are Eugene Hand with his 4-year-old daughter Chelsea. Behind them are Diane Guest with her 3-year-old daughter Tracy.

Carnival attracts hundreds

Cold winds are no threat to tradition

By Lisi de Bourbon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Piercing snowflakes backed by relentless blasts of wind swept across Onota Lake and pummeled Burbank Park yesterday, giving the 50th annual Winter Carnival Family Day the feel and the look of a Siberian outpost.

But the arctic weather failed to deter hundreds of amateur athletes and artists from whacking golf balls over the surface of the frozen lake, whizzing down a hill in plastic sleds or whipping up sculptures from huge lumps of snow.

Though conventional wisdom would dictate that only an insane person would venture out into sub-zero temperatures to experience the thrill of victory and agony of defeat or sculpt a masterpiece, parents and children turned out for the sanest of reasons.

"It's a tradition in my family," said Doreen Klink of Pittsfield as she huddled under an olive green blanket waiting for her 11-year-old daughter, Amanda, to complete her descent in the sledding race. "My oldest is 26 and we brought her to the carnival every year."

As he filled gold-colored balloons with helium, Ron Przedpelski, chairman of the carnival committee for the last five years and a city native, said many of the parents who attended the event yesterday had done so in their youth and wanted to encourage their children to carry on that tradition.

"These children might remember this and do this with their children," Przedpelski said.

What has always been an important feature of the family day event is that it is free, Przedpelski said.

And as a sort of prize to those who did not win one of 63 trophies awarded yesterday, but withstood the horren-



Man Fishing in Boat is the title of the ice sculpture, top photo, made by the industrious contingent of, left to right, Mark Depson, Amy Smith, Debbie Depson, Sean Depson, Mark Civello, and Dustin, Craig and Marcie Depson. Meanwhile, the wind and cold got to the family above, who made an early exit from Family Day.

dous temperatures, Przedpelski took a break from the balloons and announced at 2 p.m. that hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee and soda would be free.

"We figured people are brave enough to come here, we might as well give this stuff away," said Przedpelski of the goodies. "We would have ended up giving it away anyway."

2-13-95

CARNIVAL, continued on B5

Winter Carnival Day set at Burbank Park

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will hold its annual Family Day on Sunday at Burbank Park, Onota Lake.

The Frank Controy Pavilion will be the headquarters for activities from noon to 4 with the exception of the ice fishing derby, which will begin at 7:30 a.m.

Categories for the ice fishing derby will include grand prize for largest fish; first, second, and third place for men, women, boys and girls, and largest fish of any species for each division.

All fish, regardless of size, are to be brought in for weighing and measuring by 3 p.m. Only one prize per person will be allowed. William Morehouse will be chairman of the derby, which will have a \$2 entry fee for adults. Registration will be between 7 and 11 a.m.

Sliding and skating races will be between 1 and 2. Any type skates will be permitted, but only plastic sleds will be allowed. Age groups for the two events will include 11- and 12-year-olds, 8- to 10-year-olds, 6- and 7-year-olds, and those under 6.

In the under-6 age groups for the sled races, children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration for sliding and skating will be from 11 to 12:30. There is no charge and entry blanks are available at the Department of Parks and Recreation office, 874 North St., and will be available at the Controy Pavilion at 11 on Sunday.

Ribbons and trophies will be awarded in each division. The ice skating races will be under the direction of Carl Peaslee. Sled races will be under the direction of Dave Melle.

Golf on ice

A golf on ice tournament will begin at noon. Registration will take place on the lake in the vicinity of the pavilion with a \$1 entry fee for all adults. Golf balls will be furnished and prizes will be awarded. Participants should bring their own golf clubs.

A snow sculpturing contest for families and organizations will begin at noon. A cash prize will be awarded for first place and trophies for second- and third-place winners.

Richard Powers of Enticing Sculptures will perform ice sculp-

ture demonstrations during the day.

Snowshoe races and a kite flying contest will also take place. The snowshoe races are scheduled for 2:30, and the kite flying will take place throughout the day.

There will also be an ongoing volleyball game and broom hockey game with assistance from the YMCA.

Bonfire, wagons

In addition to the competitive activities, there will be free balloons, wagon rides, a bonfire and possibly a hot air balloon ride. The Pittsfield Fire Department will have a fire engine on display.

All children entered in the activities will receive a free hot dog and hot chocolate. Refreshments will be available and the food kitchen will be under the direction of Patricia Peaslee.

Access to the event is to be made via the Lakeway Drive entrance to Burbank Park, off Valentine Road.

Family day activities are sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee as part of its 50th annual winter carnival.

More information is available by calling Ron Przedpelski at 447-9768 or the Department of Parks and Recreation at 499-9343.

2-9-95

Registration scheduled for kids' skating lessons

The Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club, in conjunction with the parks department, will conduct a learn-to-skate program December 26 through December 29 at the Pittsfield Boys' and Girls' Club from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. each day.

Registration will take place Thursday, December 7 at 874 North Street from 6:30 to 7 p.m. The registration is limited to the first 80. Cost of the program is \$15.00.

If vacancies occur, registrations can be made by calling 499-9343 on Friday, December 8.

Children must have skates (no double runners), a helmet and gloves or mittens.

1130195

Winter Carnival announces ski winners

Michael Layden produced the fastest overall time and Jessica Sharlow the fastest women's time in the inaugural Pittsfield Winter Carnival cross country ski race Sunday at Pittsfield State Forest. Layden completed the 5-kilometer course in 11 minutes, 27 seconds and Sharlow in 13:12.

Top finishers in each category are as follows:

5-kilometer race

Age 14-under: Boys — Jonathan Tobin, 15:06. Girls — 1. Sarah Finck, 14:39; 2. Jillian Ryan, 21:43; 3. Jennifer Clark, 22:13.

15-29: Men — 1. Michael Layden, 11:27; 2. Ryan Kampo, 16:39. Women — 1. Jessica Sharlow, 13:12; 2. Kelly Richards, 13:24; 3. April Marko, 14:35.

30-39: Men — 1. Elson Ogden, 16:08; 2. Thomas Goggins, 19:53. Women — Robin Shields, 27:08.

50-over: Women — Vicki Singer, 27:03.

1-kilometer children's race

1. Zachary Ogden, 7:40; 2. Hannah Goodrich, 8:24; 3. Neil Goodrich, 10:29.

2-15-95

Winter Carnival ice fishing Feb. 12

The Pittsfield Winter Carnival's annual ice fishing derby has been scheduled Feb. 12 at Controy Pavilion at Onota Lake. It was shifted from the original date of Jan. 29 because of poor ice conditions. Registration will be from 7:30 to 10 a.m., with all fish to be checked in at the pavilion by 3.

Prizes will be awarded about 3:30 for the largest fish in men's, women's, boys' and girls' divisions. Three prizes will be awarded in each division, for heaviest fish in any species.

The entry fee is \$2 for adults, with children free. Each participant will get free hot chocolate and a hot dog.

The tournament is held in conjunction with Family Day activities at the lake. Various other activities continue at the park until 4.

Further information is available from event chairman Bill Morehouse Jr., 445-0322, between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

1/22/95

The Berkshire Eagle, Sunday, January 15, 1995 — B3

Winter Carnival group goes on the queen patrol

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Carnival Committee, which is seeking to pull out all the stops when it comes to celebrating its 50th anniversary at the queen's Coronation Ball Friday, Feb. 10, has run into a problem.

Some of the previous queens appear to be in the land of the missing. Despite efforts by members of the committee, seven of the queens or members of the court cannot be located. For its anniversary celebration, the committee wants a representative from every year that the Winter Carnival was held in Pittsfield.

Patricia Peaslee of the Winter Carnival Committee is asking the public for help in tracking down queens, ladies in waiting or members of the queen's court for the following years: 1947, 1948, 1950, 1952, 1961, 1968 and 1970. More information can be obtained by calling Peaslee at 443-3466.

1/22/95



Photos by Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Former Winter Carnival Queens Joan Wooley, Patricia Sanganetti and Barbara Coury, left to right, who reigned in 1958, 1957 and 1956, respectively, await their entrance cue.

Fifty years of royalty

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Melanie J. Shartrand, a senior at Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton, was crowned Winter Carnival Queen last night at the Berkshire Hilton Inn.

Among the crowd of nearly 500 were contestants in Carnival Queen competitions dating to 1948. Many of the women had traveled long distances — one came from Hawaii — to mark the 50th anniversary of the event.

A Hinsdale resident, the 17-year-old Shartrand is daughter of Robert and Lynn Shartrand of Buttermilk Road. She was crowned by the 1994 queen, Lisa Massery, 18, of Pittsfield.

Christina C. Hyde, 18, of Pittsfield, a freshman at Berkshire Community College, was named Shartrand's lady-in-waiting, and 16-year-old Elizabeth R. Puntin of Pittsfield, a junior at Pittsfield High School, was chosen as Miss Congeniality.

Carnival organizers also announced the breakage of a long-standing record of sales of buttons, the proceeds from which are used to support

various carnival-related events.

Brandi M. Lee, a 17-year-old junior at Pittsfield High, sold 7,400 buttons, shattering a record set in 1987, when Lori Vincent sold 6,150. Between them, this year's seven contestants sold a total of 14,799 buttons, said Pamela Delmolino, the 1976 Winter Carnival Queen who is chairwoman of the contest. They raised \$7,399.

A nanny for three children, Shartrand is a member of the New England Dressage Association and the U.S. Dressage Federation and has won many competitions with her horse, Blue Silhouette. She is employed by Blue Q Products and hopes to attend college and major in art. She enjoys hiking, camping, in-line skating and cross country skiing.

From pageants past

Prior to Shartrand's coronation, master of ceremonies Anthony J. Riello presented 44 former queens, ladies-in-waiting, top button sellers and contestants.

QUEENS, continued on B4



Melanie J. Shartrand, 17, of Hinsdale, the new queen, is crowned by 1994 Queen Lisa Massery. Shartrand is a senior at Wahconah Regional High School.

2-11-95

Winter Sports Committee seeks button design submissions

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee's Winter Carnival Button Design Contest will run through Tuesday. The original design will be used as the logo for the winter carnival flyers as well as buttons.

The contest is open to children from Pittsfield and adjoining towns. All participants will be divided by grade levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Designs should be drawn on an 8 inch by 12 inch sheet of paper and should be centered around winter sports. Only one color for the design can be used.

Only original figures are acceptable. Patented characters such as "Snoopy" and "Mickey Mouse" may not be used. All designs should have the youth's name, address, phone

number, school and grade listed on the back.

All division winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Berkshire Mall, while the overall winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate.

Entries may be left in any city school office, mailed or brought to the Parks Department office at 874 North Street.

12-7-95



Sheryl Morehouse

1/21/95
Chairwoman picked for coronation ball

PITTSFIELD — Sheryl Morehouse has been named chairwoman of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee 50th annual queen's coronation ball Friday, Feb. 10, at the Berkshire Hilton Inn Ballroom.

The ball is the culmination of the annual queen's contest sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. This year's seven contestants who have sold their quota of 1,000 Winter Carnival buttons during the four weeks of button sales will be judged by a panel of three impartial judges.

The judges will select the 1995 Winter Carnival Queen and Lady in Waiting.

Pittsfield toboggan races delayed for lack of snow

PITTSFIELD — The toboggan races that were planned for tomorrow at Osceola Park and rescheduled for Bousquet Ski Area have been postponed. As soon as snow conditions will allow, a new date and location will be announced by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc.

Family Day, scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Controy Pavilion, has been rescheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12, bumping the Automobile Ice Trials to Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5.

Ice conditions for the original ice trials for Feb. 11 and 12 are uncertain, so the event will be delayed in order to try to hold Family Day.

Further information about the toboggan races and Family Day may be obtained from the Recreation Department at 499-9343; from Ronald Przedpelski, chairman of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee at 447-9768, or from Clark Nichols, chairman of the Automobile Ice Trials, at 243-3433.

1/21/95

Warm winter delays public skating rinks

City officials still hope to provide skating areas at Clapp Park and on the Common this winter but the weather is not quite wintry enough.

"We're waiting for the ground to freeze and it just hasn't happened yet," said fire chief James Tobin Wednesday. "You need about four to six inches of frozen ground before you can go ahead and flood it."

Snow on the ground would help too, Tobin noted: "The snow helps to form an embankment but the main thing is getting the ground to freeze."

Cliff Nilan, a member of the parks commission, said that plans for the two rinks are still on. "We are definitely going to have some skating this year, we just don't know how long a season it's going to be," Nilan said. "We just have to wait for the colder weather."

1-12-95

Auto ice trials this weekend at Onota

Automobiles will dot Onota Lake on Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting) for the 35th annual ice trials as part of Pittsfield's 50th annual Winter Carnival. The event is in cooperation with the Mohawk-Hudson Region of the Sports Car Club of America.

Competition is open to all types of automobiles, starting each day at 9:30 a.m. with registration at Controy Pavilion off Lakeway Drive. Timed runs will begin at 11, with drive-arounds for course familiarization at 10. Each day is a separate event.

The trials are a test of driving skills on ice, and since each car runs separately, there is no danger of collision. The winding course is about a mile long. Trophies will be awarded for the top third of each of five classes (front-engine rear-wheel drive, rear-engine rear-wheel drive, front-engine front-wheel drive, four-wheel drive, other specialized vehicles).

Helmets must be worn and seat belts used. The entry fee is \$15. Bruce Taylor of Pittsfield (442-4744) is chairman.

31.195

1/16/95
Warnings sounded on ice conditions

PITTSFIELD — It's not yet safe to use the frozen surfaces of lakes and ponds for recreation, an official of the Pittsfield firefighters' union said yesterday.

"Contrary to what a lot of people seem to think, the ice is definitely not safe," said Lt. Gerard E. Miller, president of Local 2647 of the International Association of Firefighters. "We've seen people ice fishing on lakes and ponds, and they're taking an unacceptable risk."

Miller said snow cover "gives a false sense of security" and observed that many lakes and ponds are spring-fed, so while ice may be 3 or 4 inches thick in one spot, it can be dangerously thin nearby, where a spring is running.

"We need four or five nights of below-zero temperatures to get ice that's reasonably safe," he said.



A skier launches into space, above left, during 1970 Winter Carnival jumping competition at Pittsfield State Forest.



Youngsters race to the finish, above left, during 1970 skating competition at the Pittsfield Common on First



Street. Above right, square dancers crowd the old Armory on West Street, razed for urban renewal.

Carnival in the snow

Family Day, the most activity-filled segment of Pittsfield's annual Winter Carnival, takes place tomorrow at Burbank Park on Onota Lake. Activities run from noon to 4, except for the ice fishing derby, which starts at 7:30 a.m. The Frank Controy Pavilion will be the headquarters for all events.

Prizes will be given for the largest fish caught and in separate categories for men, women, boys and girls. Registration starts at 7.

The sliding and ice skating races kick off between 1 and 2. Any type skates are allowed, but only plastic sleds. Children may compete in the following age groups: 11 and 12, 8 to 10, 6 and 7 and under 6. In the under-6 age group sled races, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration forms for sliding and skating will be available at the Controy Pavilion at 11 a.m. Ribbons and trophies will be awarded in each division. The ice skating races are under the direction of

Family Day Schedule

Ice-fishing derby

Sled races

Skating races

Golf on ice tournament

Snow sculpture competition

Wagon rides

Fire Dept. truck exhibit

Bonfire

Hot-air balloon rides

Ice-sculpture demonstration

Snowshoe races

Kite-flying contest

7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Start at 1

Start at 2

Noon to 3

Noon to 3

Noon to 4

2:30 to 3:30

Noon to 4

Carl E. Peaslee; sled races under Dave Melle.

At noon, a golf on ice tournament will begin. Golf balls will be furnished and prizes will be awarded but participants should bring their own golf clubs.

A snow sculpturing contest for families and organizations starts at noon. A cash prize will be awarded to first place and trophies for 2nd- and 3rd-place winners.

Richard Powers of Enticing Sculptures will demonstrate ice sculpturing techniques.

Snowshoe races are scheduled for 2:30 and kite flying will run throughout the day.

In addition to the competitive activities, there will be free balloons, wagon rides and a hot air balloon ride if weather permits.

The Pittsfield Fire Department will have a fire engine on display.

Children entered in the various events will qualify for a free hot dog and hot chocolate. Other refreshments may be purchased at a nominal fee.

Access to the event must be made via Lakeway Drive entrance to Burbank Park off Valentine Road. No one will be allowed in the Peck's Road entrance.

Winter Carnival 25 years ago



Above right, 1969 Carnival Queen Susan Hayford crowns her successor, Maryellen Tucker.



Pat Peaslee
Skating Hall of Famer
Joel Libitz

Pat Peaslee named to skating Hall

By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A hard-working love affair of more than 35 years with the sport of figure skating has earned Patricia A. Peaslee of Pittsfield a spot in the Hall of Fame of the Amateur Skating Union.

Peaslee, who has served at various times as a figure skating judge, scorer and official since the late 1950s, was formally honored as a "contributor" during her Hall of Fame induction banquet Saturday night in Danvers, where 27 of her family members were in attendance.

Nominated by the Northern New York Skating Association, which includes Berkshire County, Peaslee's name will now be listed at the Hall of Fame in Newburgh, N.Y.

To be considered for the Hall of Fame, a "contributor" must make a noteworthy contribution at the national level for at least 15 years, according to Mary Smith of Pittsfield, one of five members of the Hall of Fame committee and herself a Hall of Fame inductee as a contributor.

'Enthusiasm' the word

"You have to give your time, and you have to contribute to the national organization, and Pat has certainly done that," Smith said. "Enthusiasm would be a good word to use when you talk about Pat."

The Hall of Fame is just the latest in a string of honors for Peaslee and her husband of 39 years, Carl. The 40th annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival was dedicated to them for their years of service to the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee, and they were also honored jointly in 1985 by the Amateur Skating Union and in 1986 by the North American Festival Committee and the town of North Elba, N.Y., for dedicated service. Pat has also been honored several times with the ASU Certificate of Appreciation presented at the annual convention.

Active since 1957

Active with the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee since 1957, Pat Peaslee's entry to the world of figure skating came in 1959.

"We took a carload of kids to the Silver Skates event at Boston Garden, and it just went on from there," Peaslee said.

PEASLEE, continued on C2
5/24/95

Peaslee honored

■ PEASLEE, from C1

Treasurer of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee since 1976, she was chairman of the Berkshire Hills Outdoor Championships from 1973 until 1991; when the event was cut from the Winter Carnival program.

Peaslee assisted with protocol for the 1978 World Sprint Championships in Lake Placid, N.Y., and also for the 1980 Winter Olympics. She was co-chair of protocol for the 1989 World Speed Skating Championships for Ladies in Lake Placid, and she has been a national judge since 1970, spending most of her time scoring. She served on the Hall of Fame Committee of the Amateur Skating Union from 1976 to 1988, serving as chairman 1983-85.

Peaslee has served as a scorer at the national and North American championships and in 1988 served as chief scorer for the national indoor championships in Morristown, N.Y. She co-chaired the speed skating convention in Albany in 1985, and in 1990 was appointed to the Board of Control for the Northern New York Skating Association.

In addition, she was an organizer for the speed skating event in the first Massachusetts Special Olympics Winter Games and served as a volunteer for several years, and with her husband helped organize speed skating events at the Bay State Winter Games. She served as treasurer of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club from 1961-64 and secretary-treasurer from 1964-67, and from 1968 to the present. She was also president of the Northern New York Skating Association from 1984 to 1985 and secretary from 1965 to 1966, 1967 to 1968, 1978 to 1980 and 1988 to the present.

Peaslee was principal clerk and stenographer for the Pittsfield Department of Parks and Recreation for 20 years, taking early retirement in 1985.

5/24/95



City Ski Meet breaks through the fog

Despite the fog, the annual Pittsfield City Ski Meet attracted 37 youngsters to Bousquet Ski Area yesterday. In top photo, 5-year-old Ben Miller peeks out from under his helmet as he awaits his turn on the hill. He finished second in the 7-and-under non-racer category. In photo at left, Amanda Busch emerges from the fog and turns a gate en route to a second-place finish in the girls' 11-13 racer division. In photo above, 6-year-old Kelly Rekeda maneuvers her way back onto her skis as she waits for the race to start.

Photos by Craig F. Walker /Berkshire Eagle Staff

Fog doesn't stop City Meet skiers

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The visibility was frightful, but the skiing was still delightful yesterday for 37 youngsters ages 5-13 who took part in the 50th annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival's City Ski Meet at Bousquet Ski Area.

Emerging like ghosts out of the thick mist as they came down the mountain, youngsters of varying abilities skied two runs down a slalom course laid out on Bousquet's Lower Beeline trail. There were a couple of falls, but no serious accidents, and all the youngsters seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Kids like it fine

"The kids think this is great," Winter Carnival Ski Race coordinator Dave Melle said, "although the parents are having trouble getting pictures with video cameras.

"I don't know if it's a challenge," said Melle, about why the youngsters enjoyed skiing in the fog. "I asked a couple of kids about it, and they said it's kind of like going into a funhouse in a carnival."

Visibility was better than the complete darkness of a funhouse, but not much better.

"You can't see the course in front of you," said 12-year-old Amanda Busch of Pittsfield, who finished second in the girls' racers 11-13 age group category in 1979 seconds.

But not being able to see was irrelevant.

"Fog doesn't bother me," said Busch, who has been skiing since the age of 2. "It makes it more fun, because you don't know what's coming next. It makes it more challenging."

Tricky for parents

Parents of skiers found watching to be just as challenging as skiing.

"You don't know where they are and you can't see until the last minute," said Anita Busch, Amanda's mother, who was at the finish line. "But my husband is on top of the mountain, and I'm on the bottom taking pictures. I called a camera shop this morning to find out what kind of film to use."

Over 40 skiers turned out for last year's City Ski Meet, which was held at Bousquet in conditions so cold that only one run down the mountain was allowed. Two runs were allowed yesterday because of the warm weather.

Winter Carnival Committee members felt the fog and poor visibility contributed to this year's lower turnout. But there were no plans to cancel the event. Melle said Friday night the only way the meet would be canceled was if

Bousquet did not open.

"I think we got a pretty good turnout despite the conditions," Melle said.

The City Ski Meet was the first athletic event in the Winter Carnival, which takes place weekends until Feb. 19. Toboggan races are scheduled for next Sunday in Oscela Park, but they may be switched to Bousquet for better snow conditions.

City Ski Meet Results

Age 8-10

Boys — 1. Colin Hollister, Pittsfield 25.43 seconds; 2. Eric Patton, Pittsfield 36.97; no third.

Girls — 1. Kathryn Hollister, Pittsfield 28.41; no second or third.

Age 11-12

Boys — 1. Tom Miller, Pittsfield 24.55; 2. Corey Walsh, Chatham, N.Y. 26.62; no third.

Girls — 1. Elizabeth Hollister, Pittsfield 24.10; 2. Amanda Busch, Pittsfield 24.79; 3. Michelle Zanconato, Pittsfield 28.36.

Non-Racers Age 7 and under

Boys — 1. Jeffrey Curry, Pittsfield 27.79 seconds; 2. Ben Miller, Pittsfield 34.82; 3. Kyle Lamont, Pittsfield 35.18.

Girls — 1. Diana Connor, Pittsfield 34.21; 2. Sarah Meandro, Pittsfield 35.66; 3. Rebecca Kosala, Pittsfield 36.93.

Age 8-10

Boys — 1. Jason Becket, Pittsfield 27.26; 2. Jeffrey Lyon, Becket 28.65; 3. Chris Cavaliero, Pittsfield 30.05.

Girls — 1. Erica Tuggey, Pittsfield 36.55; 2. Meggi Connor, Pittsfield 37.13; no third.

Age 11-12

Boys — 1. Trevor Groves, Pittsfield 23.68; 2. Pete Zanconato, Pittsfield 23.99; 3. James Cahill, Windsor 29.00.

Girls — 1. Eliza Grassy, Pittsfield 29.51; 2. Elizabeth Patton, Pittsfield 29.94; no third.

Pittsfield ski meet slated Saturday

PITTSFIELD — The City Ski Meet sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee of the Department of Parks and Recreation is scheduled for 10 at the Bousquet Ski Area on Saturday.

The race will consist of an easy giant slalom and is open to boys and girls up to and including age 13 from Pittsfield and abutting towns.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers for experienced and inexperienced racers, boys and girls, for the following categories: 7 and under, 8 to 10, and 11 to 13.

Entry forms are available at the Department of Parks and Recreation office at 874 North St. or at the ski area up to the time of the race.

All participants must have entry blanks signed by a parent or guardian.

Further information may be obtained from the Department of Parks & Recreation at 499-9343 or David Melle at 684-3050.

"The Winter Sports Committee will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the Springside House, 874 North St.

1-10-95



Welcome back

The Berkshires got its first significant snow of the season yesterday when 3.2 inches fell. Here, Armand Deschamps and his daughter Katherine, 2, of Pittsfield smile as they climb the Clapp Park hill. Also delighted were owners of snow-related businesses. Story, B1.

1/3/95
Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff



Photos by R.L. Sharstrand

Winter Carnival queen contest kicks off tomorrow 1/5/95

PITTSFIELD — The 50th anniversary Winter Carnival queen contest, sponsored by Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc., will begin tomorrow night with a dinner at Giovanni's Ristorante.

According to contest chairwoman Pamela Delmolino, seven contestants will begin selling Winter Carnival buttons following the dinner, where all contestants and their mothers will be guests of the committee.

A minimum of 1,000 buttons must be sold by each contestant to be eligible to compete for the title of Winter Carnival queen or lady-in-waiting.

The selection will be made Friday, Feb. 10, at the queen's coronation ball at the Berkshire Hilton Inn. A panel of three judges will make the selections based on poise, appearance, personality, expression and understanding of the Winter Carnival activities.

The sale of buttons is a separate contest and has no bearing on judging. The contestant selling the most buttons will receive an award. The queen and lady-in-waiting will also receive awards in addition to the various gifts donated by local merchants and

banks, as well as those purchased by the Winter Sports Committee.

Contestants will also choose a Miss Congeniality who will receive an appropriate remembrance.

This year's contestants:

► Christina C. Hyde, 18, daughter of Robert and Rosemary Hyde of Dalton Division Road, is a 1994 graduate of Pittsfield High School and is a freshman at Berkshire Community College, where she is studying biology (pre-medicine). She has ushered at Berkshire Public Theatre and has been a member of its Youth Ensemble.

She is involved with the 4-H Fair Association and 4-H Teen Council and has been a volunteer in the Special Olympics and the Housatonic River cleanup. She is also a member of the Adopt-a-Highway program. Following a two-year course of study at BCC, she plans to continue as a pre-medicine major at a four-year college.

► Brandie M. Lee, 17, daughter of Debbie Lee of Dalton Avenue and Shawn Tatro of Prospect Street, North Adams, is a junior at Pittsfield High School, where she has been on the soccer, track and softball teams. A member of the student advisory committee for

computers, she plans to study computers in college.

She is also on the student council committee.

► Maryellen J. Mineau, 16, daughter of R.E. and Cristine Gustitus of McArthur Street, and Ronald Mineau of Pittsfield, is a sophomore at Taconic High School, where she is in the vocational program. She is a cheerleader at Taconic and a member of the Pep Club. She enjoys skiing and softball and would like to become a world-class chef.

► Danielle L. Powers, 17, daughter of Daniel and Lynn Powers of Brierwood Lane, is a senior at Taconic High School, where she is on the prom and dance committees, academic decathlon and school newspaper. She is a Special Olympics volunteer and in public relations for Students Against Driving Drunk.

A member of the Catholic Youth Center service society, she enjoys weather forecasting, softball and reading. She hopes to attend Lyndon State College in Vermont to study meteorology and com-

munications and someday work for the National Weather Service in Washington, D.C.

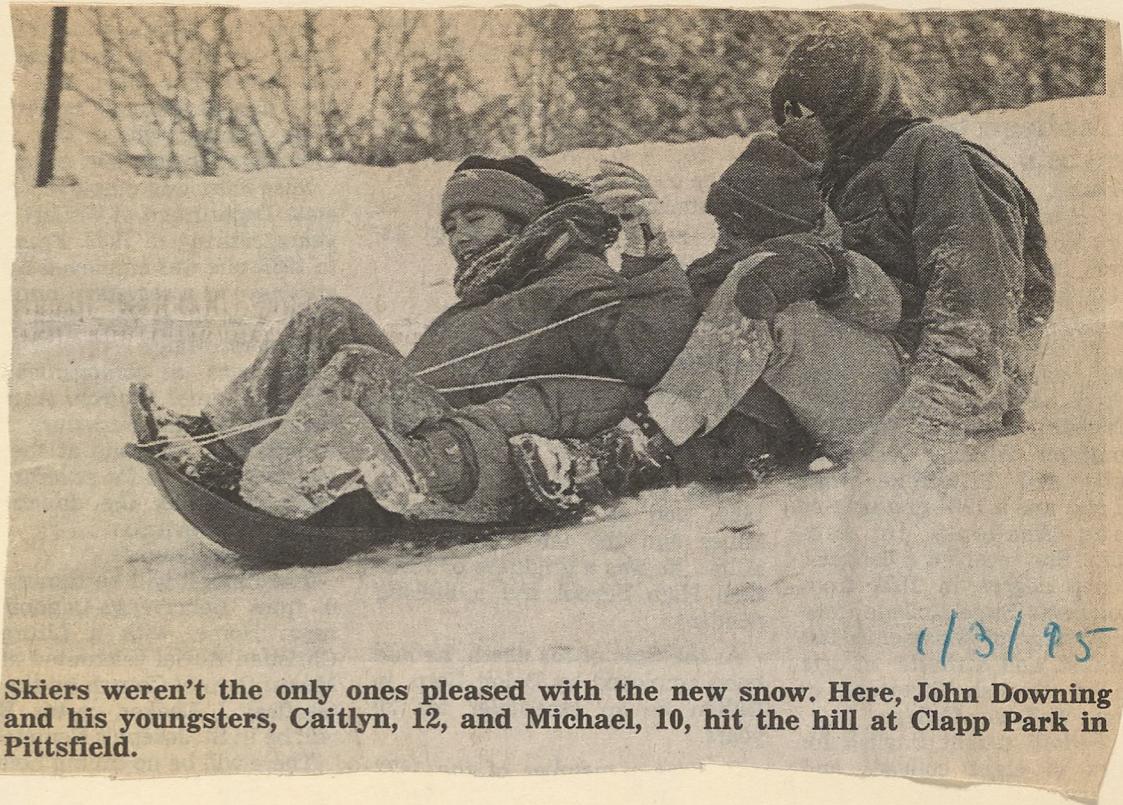
► Elizabeth R. Puntin, 16, daughter of William and Mary Ellen Puntin of Allessio Street, is a junior at Pittsfield High School, where she is class treasurer and a member of the Pep Club and softball team. She was on the 12-year-old All Star Team that traveled to Meridian, Miss. She is a member of the CYC Youth Service Society as well as chairman of the vigil for homeless and abused children.

She is a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher for the first communion class and a lector at All Souls' Church. An alternate for the Hugh O'Brian leadership award, she was a participant in 1993's World Youth Day in Denver, Colo., and as an 8th grader received an American Legion award. She enjoys softball, water-skiing and snowmobiling and hopes to attend law school in order to become a prosecuting attorney.

► Melanie J. Sharstrand, 17, daughter of Robert and Lynn Sharstrand of Buttermilk Road, Hinsdale, is a senior at Wahconah Regional High School. She enjoys hiking, camping, in line skating and cross country skiing. A member of the New England Dressage Association and the U.S. Dressage Federation, she has won many competitions with her horse Blue Silhouette.

As well as continuing to pursue dressage competitions, she hopes to attend college and major in art. She is employed by Blue Q Products and is a nanny for three children.

► Karen N. Smegal, 17, daughter of Kathleen Smegal of Parker Street and Bruce Smegal of New Lebanon, N.Y., is a senior at Pittsfield High School, where she plays on the softball team and is on the Students Against Driving Drunk committee. She hopes to attend Lyndon State College in Vermont and major in meteorology in order to someday work for the National Weather Service.



Skiers weren't the only ones pleased with the new snow. Here, John Downing and his youngsters, Caitlyn, 12, and Michael, 10, hit the hill at Clapp Park in Pittsfield. 1/3/95

2 Winter Carnival queens head 1996 queen contest

PITTSFIELD — Two former Winter Carnival queens, Hope Mesnig Dragon and Tonia Polidoro, will co-chair the 1996 Winter Carnival Queen Contest.

Dragon is the 1981 queen and a 1981 graduate of Pittsfield High School. She is a support manager for Wal-Mart's Pittsfield store.

Polidoro is the 1992 carnival queen and graduate of Taconic High School. She is a medical transcriptionist for Berkshire Association for Neurological Diseases.

The contest is open to single girls and women ages 16 to 21, who live, attend school or work in Pittsfield, or who reside in an adjoining town.

Each contestant must sell a minimum of 1,000 Winter Carnival buttons in order to be eligible for judging at the queen's coronation ball, scheduled for Feb. 9 at the Itam Lodge.

A Miss Congeniality will be selected by the queen contestants, and the contestant selling the most Winter Carnival buttons will receive a gift. The sale of buttons is a separate contest and has no bearing on the judging of queen or the lady-in-waiting. The contestant accumulating the highest score during the judging will become queen, and the contestant accu-

mulating the second highest score will become lady-in-waiting.

Applications, contest rules and regulations, and more information on the contest may be obtained by calling Dragon or Polidoro.

Applications and information may also be obtained from the Department of Parks and Recreation office at the Springside House, 499-9343. The application deadline is Sunday, Dec. 31.



Taconic student wins button design contest

PITTSFIELD — Monica Pate, a sophomore at Taconic High School, has won the button design contest sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc.

Her design, which features a child making a snow angel, will be on the buttons sold to support the 1996 Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

Other category winners were:

► Kindergarten through Grade 2 division: Kayla Comalli, Grade 1, Crosby School.

► Grades 3 to 5 division: Jessica Buchinski, Grade 4, Crosby School.

► Grades 6 to 8 division: Phoebe Clune, Grade 8, Nessacus Middle School.

► Grades 9 to 12 division: Adam Rousseau, Grade 9, Taconic High School.

All division winners will receive at \$25 gift certificate to the mall. Pate, the overall winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to the mall.

There were a total of 101 entries.

12/15/95

Family Day celebrates winter fun!

The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee's annual Family Day will be held Sunday at Burbank Park. The Frank Controy Pavilion at Onota Lake will be the headquarters for numerous free activities from noon to 4 p.m., with the ice fishing derby beginning at 7:30 a.m.

In addition to competitive activities ranging from skating to kite-flying, there will be free balloons, wagon rides and possibly a hot air balloon ride. The Pittsfield Fire Department will have a fire engine on display. All children entered in the various activities will receive a free hot dog and hot chocolate.

Categories for prizes in the ice fishing derby will include a grand prize for largest fish; 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for men, women, boys & girls; and largest fish of any species for each division. All fish, regardless of size, should be brought in for weighing and measuring by 3 p.m. Only one prize per person will be allowed. Bill Morehouse will be chairman of the derby, which will have a \$2 entry fee for adults. Children will be free of charge. Registration will take place between 7 and 11 a.m.

Sled and skating races will begin at 1 & 2 p.m., respectively. Any type skates will be allowed but only plastic sleds. Age groups for the two events will be 11 & 12, 8 to 10, 6 & 7 and under 6. In the under 6 age groups in the sled races, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration for sliding and skating will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Entry blanks will be available at the Controy Pavilion at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Ribbons and trophies will be awarded in each division. The ice skating races will be under the direction of Carl Peaslee. Sled races will be under the direction of Dave Melle.

At noon, a golf on ice tournament will begin. Registration will take

Family Day • Sunday, Feb. 12

Burbank Park, Onota Lake

• Ice Fishing Derby Registration	7:30 - 11 a.m.
• Ice Fishing Derby* (\$2 entry)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
• Skating & Sled Race Registration	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
• Sled Races*	1 p.m.
• Skating Races*	2 p.m.
• Golf On Ice Tournament* (\$1 entry)	noon - 3 p.m.
• Snow Sculpture Competition*	noon - 3 p.m.
• Wagon Rides	noon - 4 p.m.
• Fire Department Fire Truck	noon - 4 p.m.
• Bonfire	noon - 4 p.m.
• Hot Air Balloon Ride (not definite)	noon - 4 p.m.
• Ice Sculpture Demonstration	noon - 4 p.m.
• Snowshoe Races*	2:30-3:30 p.m.
• Kite Flying Contest*	noon - 4 p.m.

*Awards for winners

All events free of charge, except \$1 fee for Golf On Ice and \$2 fee for Ice Fishing Derby.



place on the lake in the vicinity of the pavilion with a \$1 entry fee for all adults. Golf balls will be furnished and prizes will be awarded. Participants should bring their own golf clubs.

A snow sculpturing contest for families and organizations will begin at noon. A cash prize will be awarded to first place and trophies for 2nd and 3rd place winners. In addition to the amateur snow sculpturing, Richie Powers of Enticing Sculptures will provide ice sculpture demonstrations.

Two new events—snowshoe races and a kite flying contest—are also planned. Snowshoe races are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. and kite flying will

run throughout the afternoon. Access to the event must be made via Lakeway Drive entrance to Burbank Park off Valentine Road. Absolutely no one will be allowed in the Pecks Road entrance.

Berkshire Ambulance will be on hand for first aid assistance.

Family Day is sponsored by the all-volunteer Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee, associated with the Department of Parks & Recreation. The event is one of several included as part of the group's 50th annual winter carnival.

For additional information on Family Day, call the Parks Department at 499-9343 or event coordinator Ron Przedpelski at 447-9768.

Festival to benefit Springside Park

PITTSFIELD — The Springside Greenhouse Group, Pittsfield Beautiful and the Pittsfield Park Department are joining forces this spring to undertake the revitalization of the city-owned Springside Park.

A gardening festival, "Springtime in the Park," is planned for May 12, 13 and 14.

The greenhouse is currently brimming with flowering plants of

all varieties, many of which will be part of the plant sale during the festival weekend. All of the proceeds will go toward the Springside revitalization project.

Members of the nonprofit Greenhouse Group have been growing the plants for more than six months, and have formed work parties to spruce up the area surrounding the greenhouse in preparation for the festival. *4/16/75*

Greenhouse group offering 'Springtime in the Park' *4/12/91*

PITTSFIELD — The Springside Greenhouse Group will hold its first countywide fair, "Springtime in the Park," on Friday, May 12, through Sunday, May 14, from 10 to 4 daily at Springside Park, 874 North St.

The event will feature displays and demonstrations focused on gardening, ecology and the environment. There will also be an extensive plant sale, which will include hanging and bedding plants, vegetables, herbs, bonsai and a variety of houseplants.

Proceeds of the sale will go directly to repairs of the city-owned Springside Greenhouse. The greenhouse group, with the assistance of the Pittsfield Park Department and Pittsfield Beautiful, is working on the project to bring more awareness of the greenhouse and to raise funds for repairs.

"In past years we have had a narrower focus, and we felt that we needed to broaden our reach and educate the community on the role of our organization," said co-chairwoman Louise Cianflone.

Throughout the three-day event there will also be food, live music on Saturday by the Berkshire Banjo Band, and the annual Springside Park tulip display. For further information, one may contact Cianflone at 443-1447.

Ken Gooch of the state Department of Environmental Management will be conducting classes on tree pruning during the festival.

Classes will be held Saturday, May 13, at 10, noon and 2 at Springside Park. Class size is limited to 15, and people should pre-register by calling 443-1447 and leaving name, class time and telephone number.

Gooch, a Massachusetts-certified arborist and supervisor of shade tree management, insect and pest control for Berkshire County, will use trees in Springside Park as part of his demonstration.

Wayne Trimm and Melodee James, a husband-and-wife team from Hoosick Falls, N.Y., will present a program featuring barred, screech and great horned owls on Saturday, May 13, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Trimm is a wildlife artist, educator and naturalist.

Springside Greenhouse group hosting plant sale, festival *5/11/95*

Gardening workshops, demonstrations and an extensive plant sale will be featured at this weekend's "Springtime in the Park" fair sponsored by the Springside Greenhouse Group.

Several organizations — including the Center for Ecological Technology, Pittsfield Beautiful and the Massachusetts Audubon Society — will offer workshops and displays at the Springside Park event.

"We wanted to get the whole community involved," said co-chair Louise Cianflone. The fair will raise money for repairs and beautification efforts at the city-owned greenhouse site and surrounding properties. The event will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Organizers hope the fair will educate the public on the group and on the park. "There are some beautiful walking trails in the park," Cianflone said. "People don't really know how nice it is back there — this is one way to make it known."

Volunteers have been working on the greenhouse site, preparing for the event. An arbor has been built fronting a large garden of blooming tulips. "People will be able to take their wedding pictures here," said co-chair Lawrence Daoust. "It really is beautiful with the tulips in bloom."

Daoust hopes the event raises interest in the greenhouse group and the beautification efforts they sponsor. "We're a very active group," he said. "We just want to make things better for the city."

The fair is an expanded version of the group's annual Spring greenhouse sale. "In past years we've had a narrower focus," Cianflone said, "and we felt that we needed to broaden our reach and educate the community on the role of our organization."

Food and live entertainment will be available all weekend.

The greenhouse sale will include hanging and bedding plants, vegetables, herbs, bonsai's, and a variety of house plants. The group's specially mixed soil will also be available.

Demonstrations — free and open to the public — will include:

- Bluebird display with Elmer Mellen, Massachusetts Audubon Society
- Composting/using red worms by the Center for Ecological Technology
- Tree Pruning with Ken Gooch, Department of Environmental Management, Saturday, 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. (pre-registration required.)

- Lawns without chemicals, Forest Garden Services
- Live hawk and owl demonstration, Berkshire Conservation District with Wayne Trimm and Melodee James, Saturday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Other exhibitions include a live butterfly display, the growing and use of herbs, a bonsai demonstration, working with topiaries, a soil making demonstration and a plant competition featuring the "Best in the Greenhouse."



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

5/12/95



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

5/15/95

Tiptoeing in the tulips

Charlotte Selke, 2, of Richmond holds the hand of her grandmother, Mary-Jane Emmet of West Stockbridge, yesterday at Springside Park while investigating the tulips. The Springside Greenhouse Group held its first fair, 'Springtime in the Park' over the weekend with the focus on gardening, ecology and the environment. Proceeds from the event are for repairs to the city-owned Springside Greenhouse.

Pittsfield rolls, 10-0; Dalton wins 7-6 in 8

Defending champion Pittsfield did it the easy way, and Dalton did it the hard way, but both advanced with victories last night in the District 1 (Berkshire County) Babe Ruth 13-year-old baseball tournament.

Pittsfield scored in every inning and got a two-hitter from Matt Billieux in a 10-0 win over Adams, a game that was halted after five innings by the mercy rule.

Dalton was cruising with a 3-0 lead until South Berkshire tied it with a three-run rally by two outs in the seventh inning. Dalton then scored four runs in the eighth and had to withstand another three-run rally to post a hair-raising 7-6 victory.

Dalton now advances to a winner's bracket game against Mount Greylock tomorrow at 12:30 at Joe Wolfe Field in North Adams. Pittsfield, now 2-0 in the tournament, will play the winner of that game July 5 at 5:30 at Joe Wolfe. South Berkshire and Adams go to the loser's bracket of the double-elimination tournament and will face each other July 8 at 12:30.

All remaining games in the tournament will be played at Joe Wolfe Field.

Dalton 7, S. Berkshire 6

GREAT BARRINGTON — Josh Bates was cruising along with a 3-0 lead and a two-hit shutout with two outs in the last inning when he loaded the bases and surrendered a game-tying triple down the right field line to Sonny Harvey.

But Dalton bailed him out with a two-out rally of its own in the first extra inning. A walk, a single by Nick DiSantis and an intentional walk to Bates loaded the bases for Corey Delisle, who delivered a two-run single. Two more runs scored on passed balls.

In the bottom of the eighth, an error and two walks loaded the bases against Ryan Allessio. J.C. Ducey then belted a two-run single and Jamie Thompson a sacrifice fly to make it 7-6, but Allessio struck out the final batter, stranding the tying run on third base.

Bates had three of Dalton's seven hits, including a pair of doubles. Harvey and Matt Bourquard each had two of South Berkshire's five hits. South Berkshire starter Mike Thorpe gave up

Babe Ruth 13s

only five hits in seven innings.

Pittsfield 10, Adams 0

PITTSFIELD — Billieux struck out 11 and Jeff Reynolds had a single and a double to lead the offense in Pittsfield's victory.

After going up 1-0 in the first inning, Pittsfield plated five runs in the second on five singles and two walks. Reynolds had his double in a two-run third, and Brian Uliasz had a triple in a two-run fourth.

Mike Henault and Eric Phillips had the two Adams hits.

GE wins Babe Ruth playoff opener

Ant Marano pitched a two-hit shutout and Bob Papallo belted a two-run homer in the second inning as GE posted a 2-0 win over Gillette Shows in last night's opening game of the best-of-three Pittsfield Babe Ruth age 14-15 championship series.

Marano, who struck out 20 batters in a game last week, struck out 11 and walked none last night, facing just 22 batters. Mike MacDonald pitched a five-hitter in a losing effort.

GE, the second-half league champion, and Gillette, the first-half champion, will play again today at 5:30 at Deming Field. If a third game is necessary, it will be played Thursday.

7/18/95

Gillette ties Ruth series with 15-10 win over GE

PITTSFIELD — Jason Harrington and winning pitcher Joe Yannone each drove in four runs and Gillette Shows mounted a 14-hit attack last night en route to a 15-10 over GE, tying the Babe Ruth age 14-15 city championship series at a game apiece.

The decisive game in the best-of-three series is scheduled tomorrow at 5:30 at Deming Park.

GE took a 9-3 lead with a nine-run fourth inning last night, but Gillette shook it off by scoring five in the fourth, three in the fifth and four in the sixth.

Harrington and Dan Proskin each had two-run singles in the fifth to help cut the deficit to 9-8. Harrington and Yannone each had an RBI single in the fifth, and Harrington, Yannone and Matt Broderick had run-scoring singles to help seal the win in the sixth.

Harrington, Broderick, Yannone and Proskin had three hits apiece, and Broderick and Proskin each drove in two.

Yannone, the fourth GE pitcher, got the win with three innings of work, allowing one run.

In GE's nine-run fourth, Kevin Daury belted a two-run homer and

Brian Furlano and Chris Bard each had RBI singles. Tom Allessio and losing pitcher Kevin Goetze each had two of GE's seven hits.

Babe Ruth team honored in Boston

Pittsfield Babe Ruth all-star manager Jim MacDonald and coaches Mike Touhey and Dennis Murphy were recently honored in Boston for guiding their team to the 1995 Babe Ruth Age 14-15 World Series.

The coaches were presented a team trophy by the BoSox Club, during a luncheon at Anthony's Pier 4 Restaurant. Red Sox vice president Lou Gorman spoke at the event, attended by about 300 BoSox Club members. Other teams, including Providence College, the Maine American Legion champions and Chatham of the Cape Cod League, were also honored for championships.

10/16/95

Pittsfield 13s ousted

WESTFIELD — Pittsfield erupted for five runs in the top of the first inning, but host Westfield trumped it with a six-run third and eliminated the Berkshire County champs 10-6 last night in the Western State Babe Ruth League 13-year-old tournament at Bullens Field.

Pittsfield was thrashed by Leominster 11-0 last night in the double-elimination tournament at Bullens Field. No other information on the game was available at deadline.

The Pittsfield All-Stars will look to stave off elimination tonight at 7 against Westfield. Westfield beat Shrewsbury 10-9 yesterday to stay alive.

7/18/95

Babe Ruth

Pittsfield was ahead 6-4 when Westfield had its six-run third, in which Matt Biscaldi and Neil Scheller each had two-run singles.

Pittsfield cut the deficit to 5-4 with four runs in the bottom of the explosive first inning, and Westfield pitcher Phil Frost held Pittsfield to one run and four hits over the final six innings to nail down the win.

7/19/95

6/28/95 Pittsfield triumphs in opener

NORTH ADAMS — Defending champion Pittsfield won the opening game of the Berkshire County Babe Ruth age 13 tournament yesterday, pinning a decisive 14-3 victory on North Adams at Joe Wolfe Field.

Babe Ruth 13's

The second game that was to have been played yesterday between South Central and Mount Greylock was canceled because it was determined at a late date that South Central would not field a team.

The next pair of games in the double-elimination tournament is scheduled for tomorrow, when Adams plays Pittsfield at the Berkshire Common and Dalton travels to Memorial Field in Great Barrington to play Southern Berkshire. Both games are set for 5:30.

Yesterday, North Adams jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning. But Pittsfield came back with four runs in the third and three scores in the fourth to take a 7-2 lead. After North Adams plated a run in the fifth, Pittsfield scored seven times in the sixth, eventually winning by the 10-run rule.

Ryan Cullen was the winning pitcher, allowing four hits in four innings. Brian Uliasz hurled the final two frames. Scott Patenaude, Brian Beauchamp and Gary Rondeau all pitched for North Adams.

Jeremy McClain had an RBI single and Patenaude a sacrifice fly to give North Adams an early 2-0 lead. Matt Billieux had a two-run single and Uliasz a two-run double in Pittsfield's third-inning rally. In the Pittsfield fourth, Paul Capitanio and Jeff Reynolds each had RBI singles while Nick Ramsey had a sacrifice fly.

Reynolds and Uliasz each had two hits in the game for Pittsfield.

7/19/95

Pittsfield win earns title shot

Defending champs beat Adams 10-2, play Greylock today

NORTH ADAMS — Pittsfield finished its climb out of the loser's bracket, defeating Adams 10-2 at Joe Wolfe Field yesterday to advance to today's Berkshire County Babe Ruth age 13 tournament championship game against unbeaten Mount Greylock.

Babe Ruth 13s

The contest is scheduled to begin at 12:30 at Joe Wolfe Field.

Greylock had defeated Pittsfield earlier in the tournament by a 4-3 score. That means Pittsfield must win today's opener, force a second game in the double-elimination event and take the second game to successfully defend its title. Greylock can either win the opener or win the second game to take the crown.

Adams, behind starting pitcher Chris Gwodz, took a 2-0 lead with a pair of runs in the fourth against Pittsfield winning pitcher Matt Billieux. But the Pittsfield squad rallied for eight runs in the fifth and two runs in the sixth to complete the scoring.

Trailing 2-0, Pittsfield loaded the bases in the fifth when Chris O'Neil was hit by a pitch and walks were issued to Randy Russell and Ryan Cullen. Chris Flynn's RBI single put Pittsfield on the scoreboard, and Billieux gave his team a 3-2 lead with a two-run single. An error that scored a run and a sacrifice fly by Nathan Davis made the score 5-2.

Jeff Reynolds' two-run single and another error that led to a run capped the rally. A balk that scored a run and an RBI single by Brian Uliasz accounted for the two Pittsfield runs in the sixth.

Mark Parrott's RBI single and a run that scored on an error gave Adams its 2-0 lead in the home fourth.

Billieux pitched six innings, striking out four and walking four.

Babe Ruth tournament begins play this morning

PITTSFIELD — Brattleboro, Vt., and Trumbull, Conn., will kick off play this morning in the Babe Ruth Age 14-15 regional baseball tournament. The double-elimination tournament will be played at Wahconah Park.

Eight teams, including host Pittsfield, are vying for a berth in the Babe Ruth Age 14-15 World Series, which will be held in New Jersey later this month.

The festivities actually got under way last night as the 104 athletes arrived in Pittsfield and were moved to their host families.

"Everybody got in. Everybody is in and housed. Things went fine," said housing co-chairman Dick Molari.

The second game features Tri-County Central of Maine against Manchester, N.H., at 12:30. Today's third tilt has Western Massachusetts champion Westfield facing Warwick, R.I., and the host Pittsfield squad plays Eastern Mass. champion Barnstable in the 8 p.m. finale.

The tournament runs today through Wednesday, with a championship game scheduled for 5 p.m. on Wednesday and a possible second game set for 8.

Prior to today's first game, 12-year-old Mallory Ford Moughin will sing the national anthem. The Pittsfield Community Music

BABE, continued on C3

8/4/95

Pittsfield Babe Ruth meeting Monday

The Pittsfield Babe Ruth baseball program has scheduled a meeting Monday at 7 p.m. at Springside House, 874 North St.

The agenda will include recruitment of coaches, setting league dates and discussion of the 1995 regional tournament that will be hosted by Pittsfield. Anyone interested in helping to support the regional tournament in any way is asked to attend Monday's meeting or send their name to the Department of Parks and Recreation, 499-9343.

2-23-95

Pittsfield Babe Ruth board meeting

A meeting of the Pittsfield Babe Ruth League's board of directors will take place Monday at 7 p.m. at the Springside House on North Street to determine coaching interest for the upcoming season.

Persons interested in coaching who have not notified the board should attend. A brief discussion of the 1995 regional tournament will also take place. Anyone interested in supporting the tournament in any way may either attend the meeting or call the recreation department at 499-9343.

For questions or more information, call Jim Hassett at 442-3887.

3-10-95

Pittsfield Babe Ruth sign-ups April 8

The Pittsfield Babe Ruth baseball programs will hold its sign-up day on Saturday, April 8, from 9 to noon at the Springside House Parks Department office and the Holmes Road fire station.

Tryouts for the 13-year-old and 14-to-15-year-old programs will be held April 22-28. Times will be announced for each age group.

3/31/95

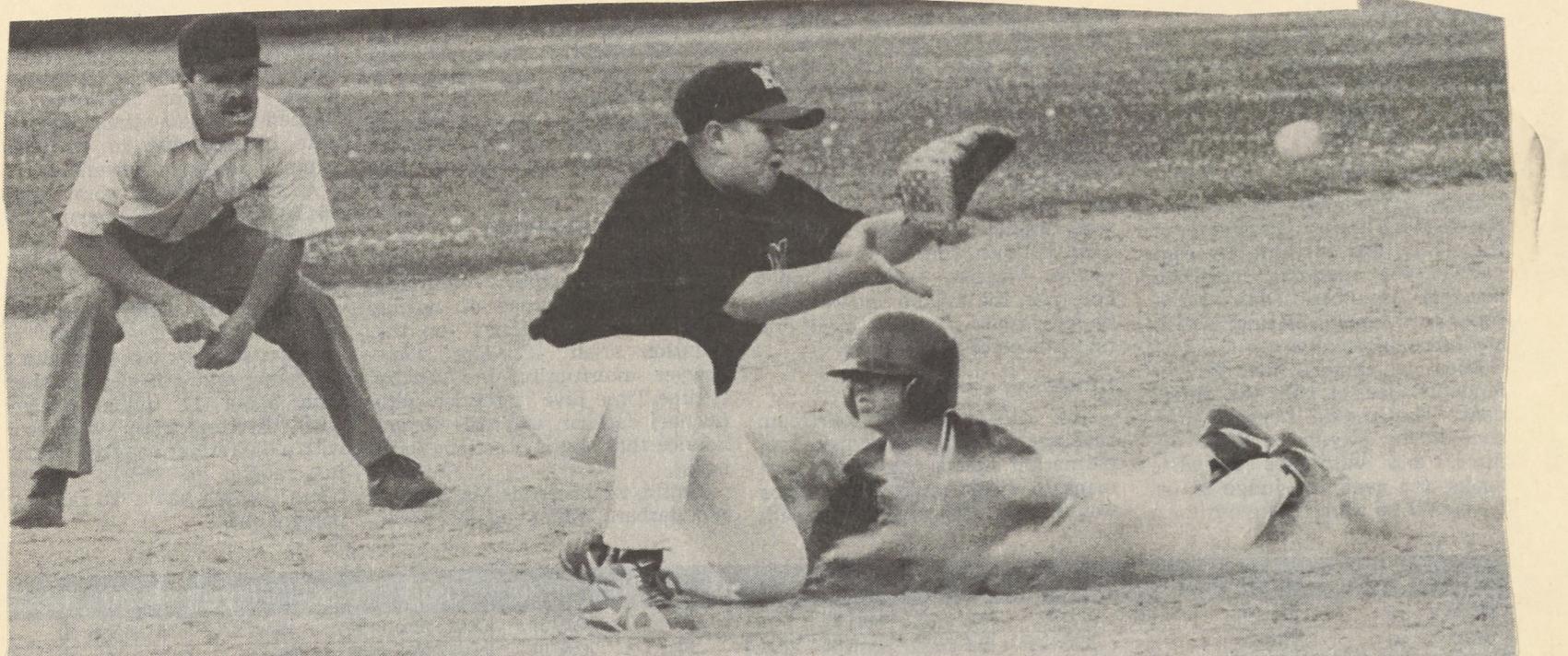
Pittsfield Babe Ruth sets tryouts

The Pittsfield Babe Ruth Baseball League has scheduled tryouts at the Common on First Street.

Tryouts for 13-year-olds will be April 22 at 9 a.m., April 23 at noon, and April 24 and 25 at 6 p.m. Tryouts for 14- and 15-year-olds will be April 22 at 1 p.m., April 23 at 3 p.m., and April 26 and 27 at 6 p.m.

Those who have not preregistered may register April 22.

4/1/95



Pittsfield's Chris Flynn slides head-first into third base to beat the throw to Mount Greylock third baseman Curtis Durocher following a bunt in yesterday's opening game of the District 1 Babe Ruth age 13 finals in Adams.

Playoff from C1

through this stuff over and over again."

As Russell's quote indicated, Pittsfield has a lot of tournament experience. More than half of Russell's team played for last year's District 1 champion Pittsfield South Little League all-star team, which finished third in the state tournament.

The tournament experience proved handy, as Pittsfield rebounded from a 4-3 loss to Mount Greylock on Wednesday with a 10-2 win over Adams on Saturday that set up yesterday's scenario.

First game

Greylock coach Ed Derby went with top pitcher Sam Jennings in the first game, hoping to avoid a second one.

"I was playing for one," Derby said.

Jennings, who allowed four hits and struck out five, pitched well, but he got into trouble in the first as Pittsfield loaded the bases with one out. But the winners could score only one run when Flynn scored on an error.

Pittsfield's winning pitcher Ryan Cullen, who allowed five hits and struck out two, retired 13 of 14 batters in the first four innings. But the one Greylock batter who reached base in that stretch scored.

Jennings singled to lead off the fourth, stole second and was sacrificed to third. Jennings then stole home with two out to tie the score. He hesitated halfway down the baseline when Cullen saw him, but slid under Pittsfield catcher Jeff Reynolds' tag to score.

In the bottom of the seventh, Jennings gave up lead-off walks to

Ryan Brown and Jeff Soldato. Both runners were sacrificed up a base before Flynn placed the game-winning hit between Greylock's shortstop and second baseman, who was playing behind the bag.

"I got lucky," Flynn said. "It went right in the gap."

Second game

In the second game, Pittsfield loaded the bases with two out in the first and took a 3-0 lead on two bases-loaded walks and Reynolds' RBI single. After a scoreless second inning, Pittsfield scored six times on three hits in the third — including Matt Billieux's two-run triple, three walks and a hit batsman — to take a 9-0 lead.

Greylock countered with two runs in the bottom of the third, but Pittsfield added nine more runs in the fourth on three hits, five walks and two errors to take

an 18-2 lead. Greylock pitchers Lucas Williams and Jake Bundtzen walked a combined 15 batters and gave up 14 hits.

Game one hero Flynn was 3-for-3 with a triple and three RBIs,

Greg Herman tripled, and four other Pittsfield players had at

least two hits. Winning pitcher Brian Uliasz and reliever Mark Yannone limited Greylock to four hits.

"I thought what really hurt us was giving up those three runs in the first inning," Derby said. "If we could've held them off, that would've helped us. They were up for the second game. Those were key runs."

"That kid [Greylock starter Williams] played against us Wednesday, and although they beat us he walked 14 batters," Russell said. "We knew he was going to be a little tired today."

Photo by Mark Mitchell

7/10/95

Chris Flynn, smiling at right, is greeted by teammates after driving in the winning run in yesterday's 2-1 win over Mount Greylock in the Berkshire County Babe Ruth 13-year-old tournament.

Photo by Mark Mitchell

7/10/95

Pittsfield 13s sweep to title

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

NORTH ADAMS — They were expected to have the easiest path to the District 1 (Berkshire County) Babe Ruth age 13 Tournament Championship this year, but defending champion Pittsfield took the hardest road instead.

Pittsfield, favored because it was the only tournament team whose all-stars come from an only-age 13 league, won the title from the loser's bracket yesterday, beating Mount Greylock twice at Joe Wolfe Field — with a dramatic win in the first game to do it.

Chris Flynn's run-scoring single with two out in the seventh broke up a tense 1-1 standoff in the first game and gave Pittsfield a 2-1 win. That set up a second game for the title, which proved to

be anticlimactic as Pittsfield rolled to a 20-3 victory. The game was called after five innings because of the 10-run mercy rule.

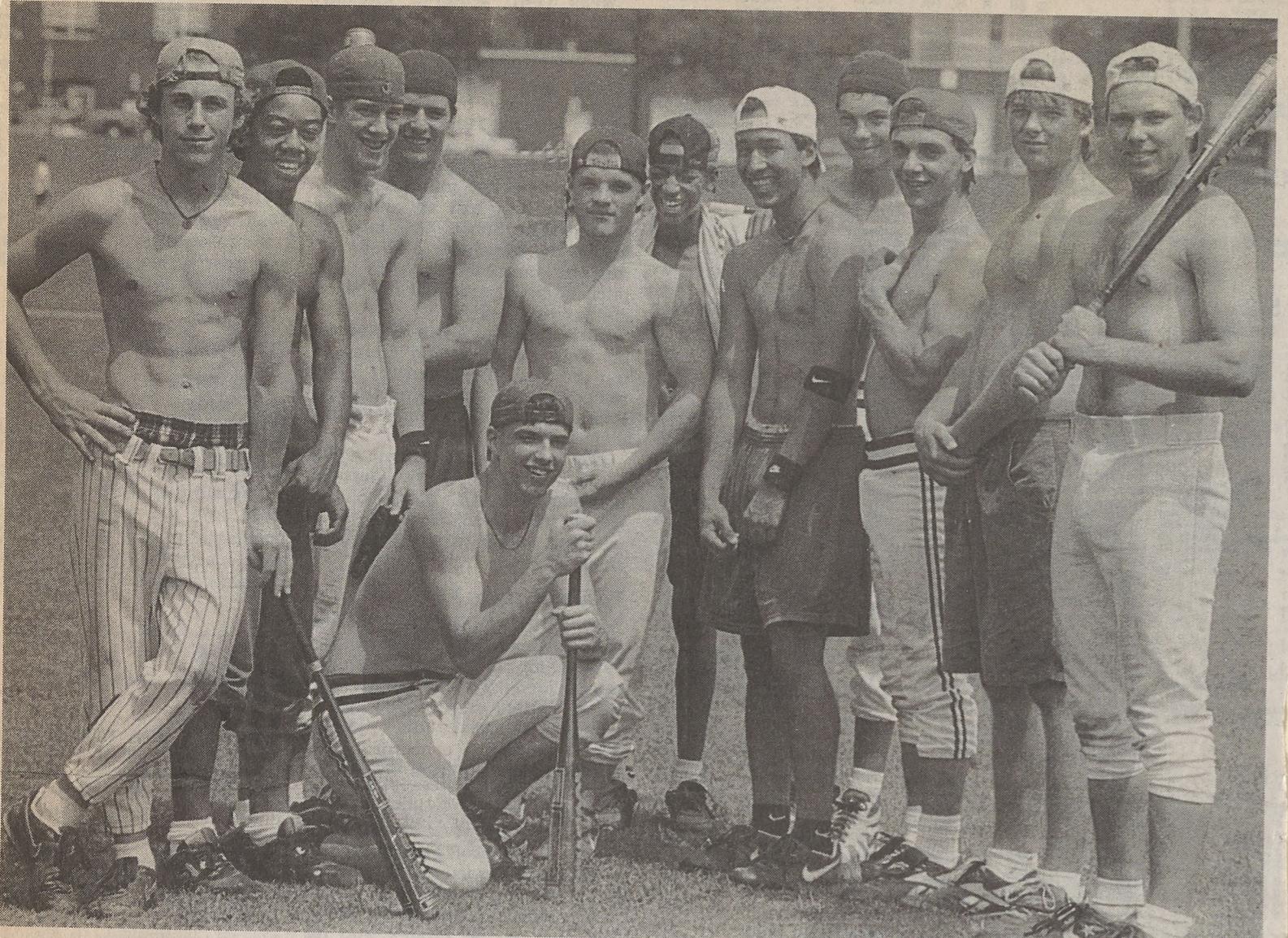
With the victory, Pittsfield advances to the Western Massachusetts tournament in Westfield July 14-17. By luck of the draw, Pittsfield receives a first-round bye and will open play in the second round against the loser of the game between the District 4 and 5 champions on Saturday, July 15.

"I didn't expect to lose a game," Pittsfield coach Dick Russell said. "I really didn't. But they [Mount Greylock] have a good pitching staff that shut us down for a couple of games."

"But if you come from Pittsfield," Russell said, "you're battle tested. These kids have been

PLAYOFF, continued on C3

Our Boys of Summer



Brian Sullivan / Berkshire Eagle Staff

After a recent workout in the searing heat at Clapp Park, the Pittsfield Babe Ruth age 14-15 all-stars proclaimed themselves ready for play in the New England regional tournament that begins tomorrow at Wahconah Park. Members of the team include, from left, Kurt Kamienski, Gerard Tillman, Matt Maloy, Chris Bard, Jason Harrington, Joe Bateman, John Sinopoli, Justin Olewnik, Brian Contenta, Jake Kellar and B.J. Jefferson. Kneeling in the middle is Ant Marano. Also on the team but not pictured are Mark Rochelo, Scott Shove and Jeff LeDuc.

Here they go again Local all-stars after another berth in Series

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The average citizen would be happy to hit a big-time lottery jackpot just once in a lifetime. Twice? Well, that might be asking for too much.

But a bunch of talented youth baseball all-stars from Pittsfield truly believe that lightning can strike twice, if not in the same place, then certainly for the same team.

The Pittsfield Babe Ruth age 14-15 all-stars are the host team for the New England Babe Ruth New England regional tournament that will begin tomorrow at Wahconah Park. The winner will be crowned Aug. 9 and advance to the Babe Ruth age 14-15 World Series scheduled for New Jersey later in the month.

Two years ago the nucleus of this year's

AGAIN, continued on C3

8/3/95 Babe Ruth Age 14-15 Regional Tournament

What's at stake? A berth in the Babe Ruth age 14-15 World Series scheduled for later in the month in New Jersey.

Who is playing? New England state winners include Tri County Central of Maine; Manchester, N.H.; Eastern Mass. champion Barnstable; Western Mass. champion Westfield; Warwick, R.I.; Trumbull, Conn.; Brattleboro, Vt. and host Pittsfield.

The schedule: Tomorrow's games include Vermont vs. Connecticut (9:30 a.m.), New Hampshire vs. Maine (12:30), Rhode Island vs. Westfield (4:30) and Pittsfield vs. Barnstable (8 p.m.). Four games will be played on Saturday at the same times. Two games on Sunday (1 & 4), two games Monday (5 & 8), one game Tuesday (8 p.m.) and championship game Wednesday (5 & 8 if second game necessary.)

Where: All games will be played at Wahconah Park.
Admission: \$3 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and students.

86 — Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Pittsfield all-stars open with Ariz. foe

Babe Ruth Series debut Saturday

PITTSFIELD — Glendale, Ariz., will be the opponent when the Pittsfield all-stars open play in the age 14-15 Babe Ruth Baseball World Series Saturday in Millville, N.J.

The Pittsfield squad, which ripped through the New England Regional at Wahconah Park last week with four straight wins, kicks off its schedule in the nine-team national tournament Saturday at 3:30.

If Pittsfield wins, its next game in the double-elimination tournament will be Monday at 6. If Pittsfield loses, its second game will be Monday at 8:30. The tournament continues through Aug. 26.

The team is scheduled to depart Pittsfield from Sacred Heart School Thursday at 12:30 p.m., and leave for Albany Airport. From there, they will fly out at 3:30 to New Jersey, Coach Jim MacDonald said.

The team is still accepting donations to help pay for its trip. Donations should be sent to P.O. Box 1076, Pittsfield Co-Operative Bank, Pittsfield, 01201, marked to the attention of the head teller. A previous Eagle story had listed an incorrect post office box.

MacDonald said he plans to stay with his New England Regional pitching plan, using B.J. Jefferson and Ant Marano three or four innings apiece in each game, as long as the team stays in the winner's bracket.

"That worked very well for us in the regionals, so we'll stay with that," MacDonald said. "Of course, if we get in the loser's bracket, then everybody pitches."

Pittsfield is 9-0 so far this season, having won a tuneup tournament in Colonie, N.Y., and then the four regional games. Most of the players were part of the Pittsfield 13-year-old all-star team that played in that age group's World Series in Springdale, Ark., in 1993.

"Last time, they were just glad to be there, but this time, they know the other guys walk and talk like they do, so they're not overwhelmed," MacDonald said. "Our plan is just to win the first four games and come home."

Coach 'Red' Pleau dies at 81

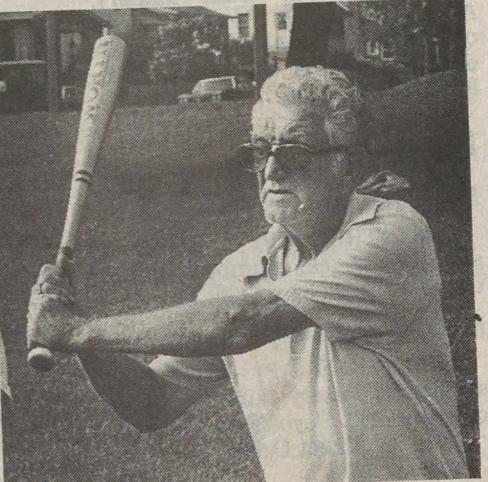
By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — George Edward "Red" Pleau, 81, of 147 Longview Terrace, a legendary coach who was mentor to hundreds of young Pittsfield athletes, died yesterday at Hillcrest Hospital.

A fixture on the bench as an assistant basketball coach at St. Joseph's High School for 40 years, Mr. Pleau was also a well-known baseball coach, assisting at St. Joseph's and guiding the 1960 Pittsfield Post 68 team — which featured future major leaguer Mark Belanger — to the American Legion World Series in Hastings, Neb.

In 1984, he received the President's Award from the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association for his contribution to that sport, and this year he was one of

PLEAU, continued on B2



Edward 'Red' Pleau
Giving batting instructions

9/7/95

■ Again from C1

worth tonight at 8, when it plays Eastern Mass. state champion Barnstable.

"We could have won the states this year," said Pittsfield pitcher B.J. Jefferson. "But there is some pressure when you're the host team. And we haven't played a lot lately."

The Pittsfield team did compete recently in a tournament in Latham, N.Y., and won all five games to take the title. But the regionals represent the best of New England. State champions from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode

Island will join the western and eastern Massachusetts champions in the field.

That's where the experience of two years ago should pay off.

New Jersey's a goal

"All of us remember what it felt like to win the states and regionals," Jefferson said. "Now, everyone wants to go back and play in New Jersey."

It seems like just yesterday for many of the players: the Berkshire County title, then the state championship followed by a victory at the New England regionals and then flying out to Arkansas.

It was a blur to be sure. And so it's just now, on the eve of another

big tournament, that the summer of 1993 is beginning to take shape in the minds of the players.

"We reminisce about that season every chance we get," said catcher Jason Harrington. At the time it didn't seem like that much. But now it's starting to sink in."

A reporter tried to impress upon the team that there is a big difference between being 13 and 15. After all, as 13-year-old players they were just one year removed from Little League. Now, some of them are already into their high school varsity years.

They admit they're older and taller and a little bit wiser. But in the big picture they don't see themselves as too different from the team they were two years ago.

"There's some maturity," Harrington said. "But the main thing is we're more together than two years ago. We seem up to the task, and we're giving 100 percent. We realize this is our last time together as a team, and we realize we have a chance to go to another World Series."

"The biggest thing is that we're playing at home," said Ant Marano, who will receive the mound nod for Pittsfield tomorrow. "And we've been playing together for so long. Everybody on this team has played a lot of baseball, and we know what we are doing."

There are two ways to look at being the host team. And the players insist there are more perks than minuses.

Problems in Arkansas

In fact, the fantasy ride of 1993 began to come apart in Arkansas. The long Berkshire County run followed by the state and regional tournament began to chip away at the fabric of that team. In Arkansas, morale and team camaraderie were supplanted by fatigue and nit-picking among the players.

As the host, the Pittsfield club drew a bye through the Berkshire County and state tournaments. To a player, that was more than an OK deal.

Said Pittsfield player Kurt Kamienski, "As 13s we had come from different Little Leagues and didn't really know each other. In Arkansas, people began to get annoyed over things. Now we get along."

"The travel was fun, but if we had our choice, it would be to stay home."

"We were falling apart a little at the end that year," Harrington said.

Brian Contenta is one of three players on this year's team who were not on the 1993 Pittsfield squad. Justin Olewnik and Jeff LeDuc are the other two having their first go-around in a New England regionals.

While the other players are talking about another trip to the World Series, the aforementioned trio is hoping to make the trip for the first time.

"I'm sure it would be exciting," said Contenta, who is also a

Pittsfield all-stars fall 5-0 in debut

By Brian Sullivan 8/13/95
Berkshire Eagle Staff

J.J. got the better of B.J., and now the Pittsfield all-stars are in a hole.

J.J. Rafferty capped a four-run sixth-inning rally with a two-run home run off B.J. Jefferson to spark Glendale, Ariz., to a 5-0 win over Pittsfield yesterday in the opening game for both teams at the Babe Ruth age 14-15 World Series double-elimination tournament in Millville, N.J.

Babe Ruth Series

Winning pitcher Jason France allowed four hits and struck out 13 in the complete-game win. Jefferson, who had given up just two hits and one unearned run prior to the sixth, also pitched a complete game, giving up six hits and striking out three.

Pittsfield, which is the New England champion, will play again tomorrow at 6 against the loser of the Staten Island vs. host Millville game that was scheduled for later yesterday. Pacific South region champion Glendale will play tomorrow about 8:30 against Bellingham, Wash., which defeated Minnesota 8-3 in yesterday's opener.

Praise from MacDonald

"That's a good team," Pittsfield head coach Jim MacDonald said of the Arizona all-stars. "B.J. did a tremendous job, but I think he did tire at the end."

"But this is the way it's been. We had some tight games through the regionals and we just haven't hit the ball. We've relied on pitching and defense, and today the defense sort of fell apart a bit."

The loss was the first of the season for Pittsfield, which had won five straight games in a New York tournament and had taken four consecutive games in the New England tournament at Wahconah Park.

"We'll have fun now and go out and see what happens," MacDonald said. "The kids have Sunday off and I think they're going to the beach. We're a good team and

SERIES, continued on C2

pitcher on the team. "But it really hasn't sunk in yet. It's going to be real exciting playing at Wahconah Park. I just hope we're ready."

How good is this Pittsfield all-star team? Who knows? All the players agree that they would have had a good shot to qualify if they had played in the state tournament.

But they are a host team. So there is no Berkshire County or state title to hang their caps on.

"We're definitely as good as the teams that are going to be there," Kamienski said. "We can definitely play with them."

Added Harrington, "I think there are expectations for this team. But no one is really putting pressure on us, and that's great."

Marano said he doesn't mind a little hype.

"The more people at the park there are and the more pressure there is, well, that's fine," he said. "I like it."

Kamienski, however, offered a word of caution: "Some people are expecting us to blow the other teams out. That would be nice, but this tournament won't really be like that."

"As 13s, we were just happy to be in Arkansas," Jefferson said. "We'll be more focused if we get to New Jersey."

They'll go, but only if lightning strikes twice.

■ Stars from C1 8/23/95

Arizona batters in the Saturday game before allowing an unearned run in the fourth. Arizona, however, caught up to Jefferson in the sixth.

"We'll go with B.J." Pittsfield coach Jim MacDonald said last night. "But the plan is to hopefully get a lead early and get B.J. out of there in the third or fourth inning and buy him some innings for later in the week."

MacDonald said it's been an intense week for the coaching staff and the players. He said the Pittsfield team has become sort of a novelty in the tournament.

"People notice us because we've scored just three runs in two games and we're still around," MacDonald said. "But I'm hoping that the law of averages applies to us in the next game and that we start hitting."

"We're seeing good pitching," he added. "We're seeing true pitchers who can give you a lot of looks. And down here the kids make the plays. A normal grounder is always an out."

Pittsfield remained alive on Monday when it defeated East Tonka behind Ant Marano, who pitched a three-hitter.



Bob McDonough
Ant Marano
Hurls for Pittsfield tonight

Pittsfield 8/21/95

stars resume play tonight

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

The Pittsfield Babe Ruth all-stars are looking to stave off elimination from the age 13-15 Babe Ruth World Series tonight.

Babe Ruth Series

Pittsfield, having lost its first game of the tournament on Saturday, will play the Midwest Plains champion East Tonka, Minn., at 6 p.m. in Millville, N.J., in an effort to advance through the loser's bracket of the double-elimination event. The loser of tonight's game is eliminated.

"Minnesota is beatable," Pittsfield manager Jim MacDonald said in a phone interview last night.

SERIES, continued on C2

Pittsfield all-stars 8/23/95

play tonight

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

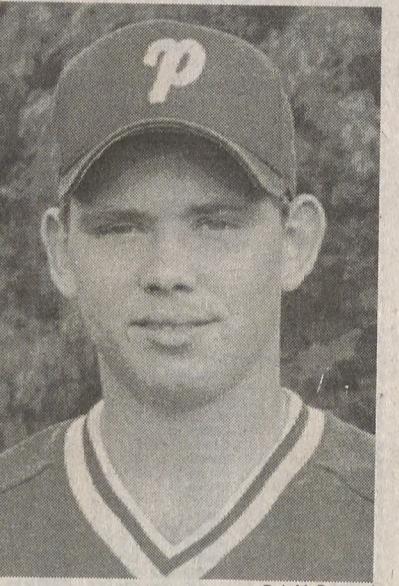
The Pittsfield Babe Ruth all-stars can take heart. Their opening-game loss in the Babe Ruth World Series being played in Millville, N.J., was to the team that right now has emerged as the team to beat. Glendale, Ariz., defeated Pittsfield 5-0 on Saturday, but it was a 1-0 game until the sixth when the Arizona stars scored four runs to put the contest away. Glendale also defeated Bellingham, Wash., on Monday night.

Pittsfield, however, answered with a win out of the loser's bracket on Monday night, scoring a 2-1 win over East Tonka, Minn., to remain alive in the double-elimination tournament.

The next step for Pittsfield will be tonight against the loser of last night's late game between South Shore, N.Y., and Lexington, Ky.

B.J. Jefferson, who pitched well in the Series opener against Arizona, will get the call tonight. The southpaw retired the first nine

STARS, continued on C3



Bob McDonough
B.J. Jefferson
Pittsfield pitcher tonight

■ Series from C1 8/21/95

"[The coaches] watched all the teams today."

East Tonka eliminated the host team, scoring an 11-5 win yesterday. In the other game yesterday, Staten Island, N.Y., beat Jefferson Parish, La., 2-1.

The second game of tonight's doubleheader features a winner's bracket contest between Bellingham, Wash., and Glendale, Ariz. Bellingham beat East Tonka in their first game, and Glendale blanked Pittsfield 5-0.

The Pittsfield coaches are the only ones who did a lot of baseball work yesterday, as MacDonald said the squad did not practice. The players and their families went to Wildwood, an oceanside community, for the day.

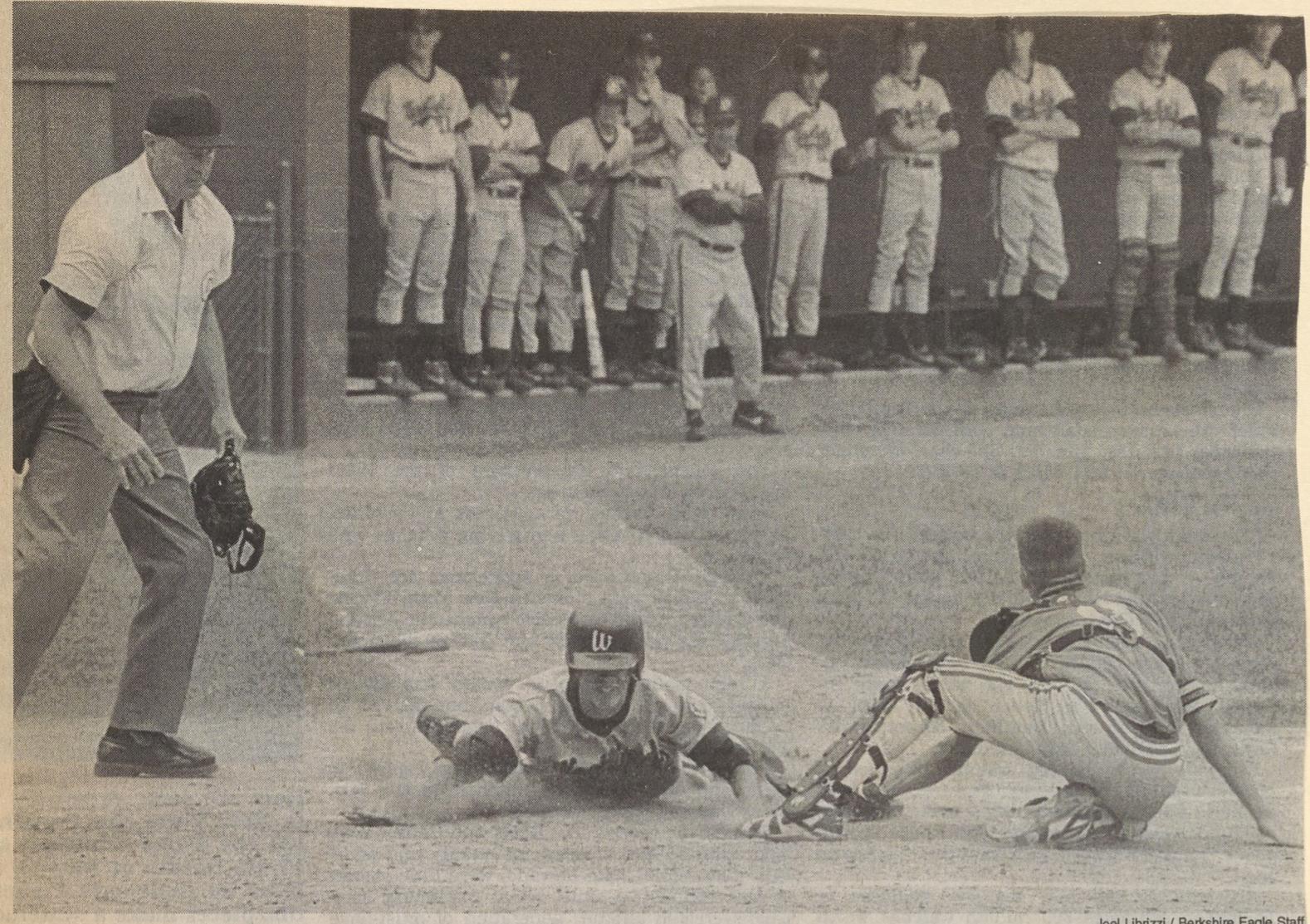
"We played a good game [Saturday], we played a good team."

We've been practicing since July, so I gave them the day off," said MacDonald, who added he thought the off-day would do the players some good.

The task is to beat a big Minnesota squad, a team that has a hard-throwing hurler. Pittsfield, a team that has run into problems at the plate in recent games, may have to resort to "Billy Ball." That style of baseball, named for the late Yankees manager Billy Martin, involves bunting, stealing bases, hitting and running, and manufacturing runs.

If Pittsfield can accomplish that task, pitcher Ant Marano will be the beneficiary. The right-hander relies on a solid fastball and a curve.

"I'd like to see him get in a groove, which he's quite capable of doing," said MacDonald. "If his curveball is being thrown for strikes, he can mow down anybody."



Westfield's Brandon Witherell slides across the plate with a run in the fourth inning as Barnstable catcher Mark Shedlock waits for the throw. The home plate umpire is Ed Ladley. Westfield beat Barnstable 5-4 in the New England Regional age 14-15 Babe Ruth Tournament yesterday at Wahconah Park.

Pittsfield stars win again, 6-3

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — No style points are given for victories. Sometimes putting yourself into position to win is more important than how it's done.

Held to five hits last night, the Pittsfield all-stars scored three runs on wild pitches and two on errors and went on to beat Warwick, R.I., 6-3 in the New England Regional age 14-15 Babe Ruth Tournament at Wahconah Park.

With its second victory in two days, Pittsfield joined Manchester, N.H., as the only unbeaten teams remaining in this double-elimination tournament. There will be only one unbeaten team left by tomorrow, as Pittsfield and Manchester play each other in a winner's bracket game at 8 tonight.

Manchester stayed unbeaten with a 6-0 victory yesterday over Brattleboro, Vt.

If Pittsfield wants to stay in the winner's bracket, the all-stars will have to hit better than they did last night. Chris Bard had two hits, and John Sinopoli added a double for Pittsfield, but last night's victory over Warwick was manufactured by aggressive base running that put the host team in position to capitalize on the Rhode Island champions' mistakes.

"I like to put the pressure on the defense," Pittsfield coach Jim MacDonald said. "We've got a lot of good runners. We've got to hit more."

Pitchers B.J. Jefferson, Ant Marano and Jeff LeDuc also had a hand in the Pittsfield

Babe Ruth N.E. Tourney

(At Wahconah Park)
YESTERDAY'S GAMES
Pittsfield 6, Warwick, R.I. 3
Westfield 5, Barnstable 4
Trumbull, Conn. 14, Tri County (Maine) 4
Manchester, N.H. 6, Brattleboro, Vt. 0
TODAY'S GAMES
Brattleboro vs. Trumbull, 2 p.m.
Warwick vs. Westfield, 5 p.m.
Pittsfield vs. Manchester, 8 p.m.

win, limiting Warwick to four hits, and striking out a combined 10 batters. Jefferson, who went the first four innings, received the win. LeDuc, who pitched the seventh, earned a save when he got Nick Murray on a game-ending fly out to left with runners on first and second.

Warwick took a 1-0 lead in the first when Eric Flanagan singled, went to third on Dave Jubinville's bunt single, then scored on Joe Bell's sacrifice fly to right.

But Pittsfield rebounded to take a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the frame. After walks to Marano and Scott Shove sandwiched around Bard's single to left loaded the bases, Warwick starter Richard Moniz threw two wild pitches during Matt Maloy's at bat, which allowed Marano and Bard to score.

After Warwick pulled within 4-3 in the top of the fifth when Murray's pinch hit single scored Dan Dempsey from second, Pittsfield regained its two-run margin in the bottom of the frame.

Jason Harrington walked, stole second and third, and scored when an error was made on Bard's grounder to shortstop, which would have been the third out.

Pittsfield scored its final run in the sixth. LeDuc reached on an error, was sacrificed to second, and continued to third on a dropped third strike. An overthrow at third base enabled LeDuc to score.

"They didn't do anything we didn't know or go over," Foster said. "When kids get on the field, they can go blank at times."

Manchester also remains unbeaten

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Manchester, N.H., had only four hits, but scored four unearned runs to blank Brattleboro, Vt., 6-0 yesterday and remain unbeaten in the Babe Ruth New England Regional age 14-15 Tournament at Wahconah Park.

With the win, Manchester remains in the winner's bracket, where it will face unbeaten Pittsfield tonight at 8.

Brattleboro drops to the loser's bracket,

when Sean McNamara walked, and advanced to third on Flanagan's single. He scored when Jefferson threw a wild pitch on strike three to Jubinville.

But losing pitcher Moniz, who threw four wild pitches, uncorked his third in the bottom of the second to give Pittsfield a 3-2 lead. Jefferson walked, was sacrificed to second, and went to third when Justin Olevnik bounced out to first before scoring.

"He was way off," Warwick coach Jim Foster said of Moniz, who went the first five innings. "He's also the type of kid who can have good games, but he didn't make the pitches when we needed them today."

Pittsfield took a 4-2 lead in the fourth on its only run-driven-in hit. Shove walked, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch, and scored when pinch hitter Marc Rochelo singled to right.

After Warwick pulled within 4-3 in the top of the fifth when Murray's pinch hit single scored Dan Dempsey from second, Pittsfield regained its two-run margin in the bottom of the frame.

Jason Harrington walked, stole second and third, and scored when an error was made on Bard's grounder to shortstop, which would have been the third out.

Pittsfield scored its final run in the sixth. LeDuc reached on an error, was sacrificed to second, and continued to third on a dropped third strike. An overthrow at third base enabled LeDuc to score.

"They didn't do anything we didn't know or go over," Foster said. "When kids get on the field, they can go blank at times."

Manchester also remains unbeaten

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Manchester, N.H., had only four hits, but scored four unearned runs to blank Brattleboro, Vt., 6-0 yesterday and remain unbeaten in the Babe Ruth New England Regional age 14-15 Tournament at Wahconah Park.

With the win, Manchester remains in the winner's bracket, where it will face unbeaten Pittsfield tonight at 8.

Brattleboro drops to the loser's bracket,

day. Warwick lost to Pittsfield 6-3 last night.

Manchester 6, Brattleboro 0

Ben Gilbert pitched a four-hitter for Brattleboro, but Manchester scored four runs in the third and two in the sixth to win the game.

In the third, Adam Butkus plated one run with a sacrifice fly for Manchester, and Jay Remillard had a run-scoring single. John

TOURNEY, continued on A8



Westfield's Shannon Garstka (30) is congratulated by his teammates after scoring in the fourth inning of his team's 5-4 win over Barnstable in the New England Regional age 14-15 Babe Ruth Tournament yesterday at Wahconah Park.

Tourney from A6

8/1/95

Velosky, who walked, and Remillard scored on errors.

In the sixth, Remillard reached on an error, and scored on an error. Albie Edmonds later singled in Mike DiCombs, who had also reached on an error.

Chris Hewey had two of Brattleboro's four hits off Manchester starter and winner Jeremiah Merrill, who struck out eight in a complete-game performance.

Westfield 5, Barnstable 4

Brendan Witherell went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs for Westfield, which rebounded from a 1-0 first inning deficit with three runs in the fourth and two in the fifth to take an 11-0 lead.

In the seventh, Barnstable's first two batters reached base when Steve Ewing singled and Bobby Graham walked. Graham was then forced at second on Jonathan Gagne's fielder's choice, leaving runners on first and third.

With two out, Mark Stevens and Danny Jenkins singled to plate two runs, and bring Barnstable within 5-3.

Shannon Gartska then replaced

Westfield starter and winner Will Pepek. But he walked Justin Foster and Vinnie Balzotti to force in Stevens, which cut Westfield's lead to 5-4.

Seth Jerue was brought on in relief of Gartska and got Adam Proto on a grounder back to the pitcher's mound to end the game. Balzotti and Ewing each had two hits for Barnstable.

Trumbull 5, Tri County 4

Jeff Murdoch had three hits and three RBIs, and Billy Thomas two hits and four RBIs for Trumbull, which scored two runs in the first, four in the second and five in the third to take an 11-0 lead.

Tri County scored two runs in both the third and fourth to pull within 11-4, before Trumbull ended the game with one run in the fifth and two in the sixth.

Craig Silva, Dan Brennan and Matt Mauzzone each had two hits for Trumbull. Manzione also had a triple and three RBIs.

Corey Koch and Tim Hebert had two hits for Tri County. Hebert also had two RBIs.

Ruth all-stars keeping focused

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

The co-MVPs of the New England Regional Babe Ruth age 14-15 tournament say the best is yet to come.

Pittsfield players Ant Marano and B.J. Jefferson said last night that the focus next week in Millville, N.J., will be to win the Babe Ruth age 14-15 World Series. Two years ago, when 12 members of this current Pittsfield all-star team went to the Babe Ruth age 13 World Series in Springdale, Ark., the focus was just on getting there.

And that's the difference two years can make.

"We haven't shown yet what we really can do," said Jefferson, who with Marano and Jeff LeDuc helped hurl the Pittsfield team to four

straight wins in the regional event played at Wahconah Park. "We can still play better than we have."

Pittsfield won the New England crown with a 2-1 victory over Manchester, N.H., on Wednesday. The Pittsfield team had also won five straight games in a tournament in Latham, N.Y., prior to the regional event. That's a nifty nine-game winning streak heading into the nationals, which will take place Aug. 19-26 in Millville.

"We're definitely more focused this time around," said Marano, who won the opening Series game in Arkansas for the Pittsfield 13s before the team bowed out of that event by losing two straight games.

Two World Series appearances in three years? Marano said it's still hard to believe he

went to the first one. Now he's going to a second national tournament.

"I'm not sure if it's sunk in or not," he said. "But I do know that people are pretty happy."

Jefferson earned all four New England tournament victories in either a relief role or as a starter. He said the Pittsfield team was a bit tight for its first couple of games but began to loosen up for the final two games.

How loose was Jefferson? He squeezed out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the title game with a smile on his face.

Why was Jefferson smiling?

"Because I was telling him we were going to get out of it," said Marano, who kept in touch with his southpaw teammate from his first-base position.

8/1/95 RUTH, continued on C3

Pittsfield stars set for Series trip

Babe Ruth champs head for N.J. today

By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Gone is the home-field advantage.

None also, however, are the pre-tournament jitters. Most of these guys know the drill, and they're ready.

Such is the case for the Pittsfield all-stars as they prepare to depart today for the Babe Ruth Baseball age 14-15 World Series that opens Saturday in Millville, N.J.

Pittsfield, which swept through the New England Regional Tournament in four games last week at comfey Wahconah Park, is 9-0 this season, and 12 of its 15 players were members of the age 13 Babe Ruth all-stars who played in that age division's world series in 1993 in Springdale, Ark.

"Last time, I think we were kind of shocked we got there," said second baseman Gerard Tillman, one of the 1993 World Series players. "This time, I know we're ready. We know we have the talent."

Babe Ruth Series

SCHEDULE

Saturday, Aug. 19

1:00 — E. Tonka, Minn., vs. Bellingham, Wash.
3:30 — Pittsfield vs. Glendale, Ariz.
6:00 — Millville vs. Staten Island, N.Y.

Sunday, Aug. 20

1:00 — Tallahassee, Ala., vs. Lexington, Ky.
3:30 — Jefferson, La., vs. Game 3 winner
6:00 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 3 loser

The journey begins today, when the team departs Sacred Heart School by van at 12:30 for Albany Airport. From there, they will catch an hourlong 3:30 flight to Philadelphia. They arrive about 4:30, then will be bused to Millville. Today and tomorrow are largely social days, as the players meet their host families and attend a welcoming dinner, where one speaker will be former major league umpire Marty Springstead.

Then it's down to business Saturday, when Pittsfield will play Pacific Southwest region cham-

RUTH, continued on C3



Bob McDonough / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Pittsfield's final preparations for the Babe Ruth age 14-15 World Series included bunting drills yesterday at Deming Field. Here, Gerard Tillman lays down a bunt as teammates look on behind. The team leaves today for Millville, N.J.



Bob McDonough / Berkshire Eagle Staff

8/17/95

New England champions

The New England champion Pittsfield all-stars will begin play in the Babe Ruth Baseball age 14-15 World Series on Saturday in Millville, N.J. Team members are, from left: FRONT ROW — Jason Harrington, Gerard Tillman, Joe Bateman. MIDDLE ROW — Batboy Darren Jefferson,

Brian Contenta, Matt Maloy, John Sinopoli, Kurt Kamienski, Jake Kellar, Jeff LeDuc. BACK ROW — coach Dennis Murphy, Ant Marano, Justin Olewnik, Scott Shove, Chris Bard, B.J. Jefferson, Mark Rochelo, coach Mike Touhey, manager Jim MacDonald.

Ruth from C1

pion Glendale, Ariz., at 3:30 in one of three first-day contests in the nine-team, double-elimination tournament.

In Saturday's other games, East Tonka, Minn., (Midwest Plains region) plays Bellingham, Wash., (Pacific Northwest) at 1 p.m. and host Millville plays Staten Island, N.Y., (Middle Atlantic) at 6.

Sunday, Tallahassee, Ala., (Southeast) plays Lexington, Ky., (Ohio Valley) at 1 p.m., Jefferson Parish, La., (Southwest) plays the Millville-Staten Island winner at 3:30 and the East Tonka-Bellingham loser plays the Millville-Jefferson loser.

Pittsfield's second game will be Monday at 6 p.m. if it wins its opener, or at 8:30 p.m. if it loses its opener. The tournament continues through Aug. 26. All games are scheduled for seven innings.

Final, relaxed workout

Yesterday was a day for team photos and a relaxed workout at Deming Field in final preparation after a 44-day season together.

The team is healthy and ready to go, as manager Jim MacDonald worked the last few days on batting drills, since that was the team's only weak point during the regional tournament. Pittsfield had 11 hits in one of its victories, but averaged only about five in its other three games.

"We haven't been hitting, and we didn't throughout the tournament," MacDonald said. "We won on pitching and taking advantage of other teams' mistakes. We stole

WBRK, Z-101 set to air Pittsfield Series games

PITTSFIELD — Radio stations WBRK-AM and Z-101.7-FM will combine to broadcast all of the Pittsfield games live from the Babe Ruth World Series in Millville, N.J., starting with Saturday's game.

The opening game Saturday at 3:30 will air on WBRK-AM, along with the championship game Aug. 26, if Pittsfield gets that far. Other games will be broadcast over Z-101.7, program director Rick Belaire announced. Since the tournament is double-elimination, it could involve as few as four games or as many as seven for Pittsfield.

All broadcasts will begin 15 minutes before game time. Play-by-play will be handled by Bob Canavan of radio station WRDR in Atlantic City, N.J.

bases, and it worked out, but we've definitely got to start hitting."

To that end, MacDonald imported the talents of former Pittsfield High pitching standouts Dave Fields and Shaun Sottile to throw some upscale batting practice this week, showing his hitters some faster-than-usual fastballs and some sharper curveballs.

"Hopefully, you won't see much better pitching than that down there in New Jersey," MacDonald said.

Marano, Jefferson in charge

Pittsfield's pitching will remain in the hands of hard-throwing Art Marano and junkball specialist B.J. Jefferson, the co-MVPs of the regional tournament who took part in every game of that tournament.

Since pitchers are allowed to pitch only a total of seven innings every other day, MacDonald plans to use one as the starter and the other as

the reliever, as long as the team keeps winning.

"If we go into the loser's bracket, everybody's a pitcher," MacDonald said.

Marano, part of Pittsfield High's three-man starting rotation this spring, said he enjoys his new role, which often features relief appearances.

"I've never had a role of coming into a game, but I like it, it saves our arms," said Marano, who was the winning pitcher in the opening game for the Pittsfield 13-year-olds in Arkansas in 1993.

In the wings, Pittsfield also has PHS Jayvee pitcher Jeff LeDuc and Lenox High newcomer Brian Contenta, "who throws as hard as anybody in our league, and has incredible potential," MacDonald said.

Jason Harrington is locked in at catcher, Jefferson or Marano will play first base (whoever isn't

pitching), Tillman will be at second, and MacDonald hasn't decided on the left side of his infield yet. In the outfield, from left to right, will be Chris Bard, Kurt Kamienski and John Sinopoli.

"With the re-entry rule, the starting lineup doesn't matter much," MacDonald said.

The manager said the left side of the infield needs work on its defense, but he has been happily surprised by the outfield.

"Before the tournament, I thought our weak point would be our outfield defense, but it turned out to be our strongest area, Sinopoli in particular," he said.

Marano, one of the national tournament-tested players, is glad the tournament isn't back in Arkansas, where the team was greeted by 103-degree heat. This time, he said, they'll know to bring videos, tape players and plenty of tunes in case they have to sit out rain delays. And this time, there are no first-time jitters.

"This time," Marano said, "everybody feels we can go down there and make some noise."

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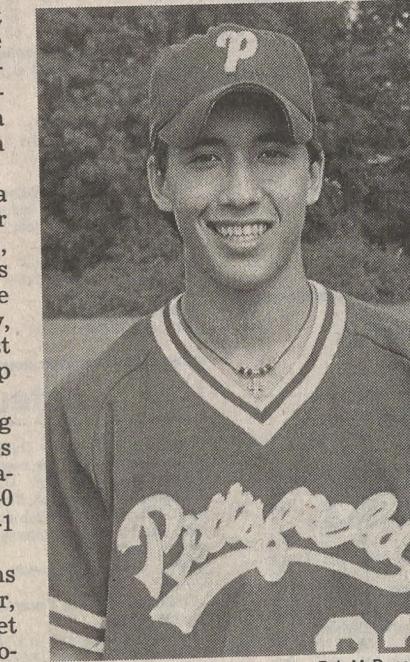
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Pittsfield ousted, 4-3

Errors costly at Babe Ruth Series

8/24/95



John Sinopoli
Hits single, double

"Today, at least we put some runners on. We just didn't get them in."

— Jim MacDonald

ners reached on errors. First, Chris Wilkie reached when Bateman had trouble with a soft one-hopper, then Miles reached when Sinopoli appeared to lose his fly ball in the lights for an error. J.R. Stephens then delivered a two-run double over the head of center fielder Kurt Kamienski, and Stephens scored on back-to-back singles by Chad Southworth and Austin Kearns.

"Good defense got us here, and we just fell apart in that one inning," MacDonald offered.

Pittsfield got a run back in the sixth when Scott Shove hit a leadoff single, Kellar reached on an error, pinch hitter Mark Rochelo advanced them with a bunt and Jason Harrington belted a sacrifice fly to deep right.

In the final inning, Bard hit a leadoff single over the mound, but B.J. Jefferson popped out attempting to bunt him to second. Kamienski then struck out and Shove walked before Kellar hit his game-ending liner.

MacDonald surprised most observers by starting Contenta over Jefferson. Contenta went four innings, giving up only two hits and striking out three before being relieved by Jefferson in the fourth.

"We were trying to get some innings banked for Jefferson and Marano, and we were just hoping he would go four innings for us," MacDonald said of his decision to start Contenta.

Sinopoli and Bard each had two of the eight hits for Pittsfield, which outhit the winners 8-6.

the tournament, but the first of its three doubles on the night. Chris Bard then hit a single to right field through a drawn-in infield, scoring both runners.

Pittsfield could have had more, as a walk to starting pitcher Brian Contenta followed the single, but the two runners were stranded, a sign of things to come.

Pittsfield also wasted a leadoff double by Sinopoli in the third, left the bases loaded in the fourth, stranded runners on second in the fifth and sixth and had two runners on base when Jake Kellar lined out hard to shortstop for the final out of the game.

Lexington's first run came in the third inning for Pittsfield, as John Sinopoli hit a one-out infield single to the shortstop hole. Ant Marano followed with a double to the base of the right field wall, Pittsfield's first extra-base hit of

the game.

Things got off to a bright start in the first inning for Pittsfield, as

John Sinopoli hit a one-out infield single to the shortstop hole. Ant Marano followed with a double to the base of the right field wall, Pittsfield's first extra-base hit of

the game.

The fatal inning was the fifth,

when Lexington's first two run-

Babe Ruth tournament opens Friday at Wahconah Park

The umpire's call of "play ball" will ring out Friday at 9:30 a.m., marking the start of the Babe Ruth regional tournament for 14 and 15 year-olds.

The tournament is coming to Pittsfield for the first time. "Everything is go," says Lionel Doucette, co-president of the local Babe Ruth league. "It's all set for Friday."

The tournament will bring seven New England all-star teams — 105 players — to Wahconah Park, along with coaches and fans.

Doucette expects good baseball and good crowds at the ballpark. "For many of these teams, this is the first time around," he said. "I'm sure they're very excited about it."

The players are arriving Thursday and will be greeted at the Italian American Club. After lunch they will be introduced to the families who will house them for the duration of the tournament.

Officials have been scrambling to find host families for all the out-of-town players and as of Wednesday evening were still looking for homes. "It looks like we're pretty close," said

Richard Molari, who is organizing host families. "But we'd like to have a few more lined up, just in case."

The family is responsible for at least two players' room, board and transportation for games during the tournament.

Molari said hosting the players is a great way to enjoy the games. "I think they'll find that they become close to these kids pretty quickly," he said. "They'll wind up rooting for a couple different teams."

The winning team will play in the August 19 Babe Ruth world series, which will be held in New Jersey. Doucette believes the Pittsfield all-star team has a shot at making that trip. He points out that many mem-

bers of the current team were also members of a team that went to the world series as 13 year-olds. "I think we'll be in every game," Doucette said.

He also noted that the Pittsfield team dominated a recent tournament in New York State. "I don't know what kind of competition they faced," he said. "But [Pittsfield] looked pretty good."

Doucette and co-president Alfred Bradley lobbied league officials for two years to bring the tournament to Pittsfield. Doucette said that Bradley has been ill recently, but is recovering and hopes to attend some of the games.

"He put in a lot of time and effort

to bring this here," Doucette said. "This is his dream and I hope he gets to come out and see it happen."

Here is a look at the opening day schedule for the double elimination tournament:

- 9:30 a.m. - Brattleboro, Vermont vs. Trumbull, Connecticut
- 12:30 p.m. - Manchester, New Hampshire vs. Tri-County Central league, Maine
- 4:30 p.m. - Warwick, Rhode Island vs. Westfield
- 7:30 p.m. - Opening ceremonies, all teams take part in uniform
- 8 p.m. - Pittsfield vs. Barnstable

Anyone interested in becoming a host family should call Molari at 499-

4546



Pittsfield all-stars go for title today

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Two years ago, the Pittsfield 13-year-old all-stars won the New England Babe Ruth Regional championship and played in the Babe Ruth World Series in Arkansas.

Babe Ruth Tourney

Today, 12 of those youngsters will try and get back to the Babe Ruth World Series at the next age group level.

Host Pittsfield will face Manchester, N.H., for the championship of the New England Regional Babe Ruth age 14-15 tournament at Wahconah Park at 5 p.m. today.

Manchester, which lost to Pittsfield 8-2 Wednesday, advanced to the final of this double elimination tournament by eliminating Westfield 6-1 on Albie Edmunds' four-hitter last night.

If Manchester wins the first game, a second game will follow tonight at 8. The winner will represent the New England region in the Babe Ruth age 14-15 World Series in Millville, N.J., Aug. 19-26.

Pittsfield in driver's seat

Pittsfield has the advantage coming out of the winner's bracket as host team. But Pittsfield coach Jim MacDonald is taking nothing for granted.

"Obviously, it's an advantage," MacDonald said. "But we're trying to focus on winning the first game."

Manchester made seven errors in Monday night's loss to Pittsfield, but last night's victory over Westfield showed how good the New Hampshire champions can be.

"They're a good team," Mac-

I think their expectations are to go through it and win it. If they don't win it, I think they'll be disappointed.

— Jim MacDonald

Donald said. "They've got two quality pitchers, and they can come back with this kid [Edmunds] in the second game. We really have our work cut out for us."

But MacDonald expects his all-stars to be ready.

"These kids have expectations not just to go through this tournament," MacDonald said. "I think their expectations are to go through it and win it. If they don't win it, I think they'll be disappointed."

Besides beating Manchester, Pittsfield has also defeated Barnstable 6-5 and Warwick, R.I., 6-3. Pittsfield beat Barnstable in its last at-bat, and scored five of its six runs against Warwick with help from the Rhode Island team's mistakes, before blowing out Manchester to reach the final from the winner's bracket.

"I think we were tight in the first game," Pittsfield pitcher B.J. Jefferson said. "We tried to make everything perfect so we wouldn't do anything wrong. We loosened up a little in the second game, but we were still trying to be perfect. Monday night, we just let it all

RUTH, continued on C3

Ruth 8/19/95

■ Ruth from C1

out, and that was good."

Pittsfield was much looser in the Manchester game, which MacDonald was glad to see. He said his team has felt the high expectations people have placed on it, expectations that began in Arkansas two years ago.

MacDonald told the all-stars to have some fun against Manchester and that is what they did.

"What happened is, that was the first time I loosened up on them," MacDonald said. "When I loosened up, they loosened up."

"I think we are over that hurdle now," MacDonald said, referring to the Pittsfield team's tightness.

LeDuc gets the call

Pittsfield has alternated pitchers Ant Marano and Jefferson in each game, with the all-stars' third pitcher, Jeff LeDuc, pitching only the seventh inning against Warwick in which he earned a save.

MacDonald said LeDuc will start today's game to give Marano and Jefferson a break.

"I think it'll be good for him," MacDonald said. "He hasn't gotten in much. Every inning he can go adds to what Jefferson and Marano can do."

"But we're playing to win the first game," MacDonald said. "We want to win it and get it over."

Brian Contenta, who has Pittsfield's top record at 7-1, is on the bench. But MacDonald said he probably won't use Contenta because he doesn't have much big game experience.

"We don't really need him," MacDonald said. "We've got two varsity high school pitchers and LeDuc."

Speed pays off

Pittsfield hasn't hit as well as MacDonald thought the all-stars

would in the first three games, with 11 of its 23 hits coming against Manchester. But MacDonald has used his team's speed to put pressure on the opposition and create scoring opportunities.

The All-Stars are 15-for-16 in stolen base attempts through the first three games. They stole 15 straight bases until Scott Shove was thrown out trying to steal third in the sixth inning against Manchester. Pittsfield is 14-for-14 in steals of second.

The steals have helped. Manchester made three straight throwing errors on second-base steals in the second inning Monday night, which led to three Pittsfield runs.

"We're fast and we work on it," MacDonald said.



And they're off

8/18/95

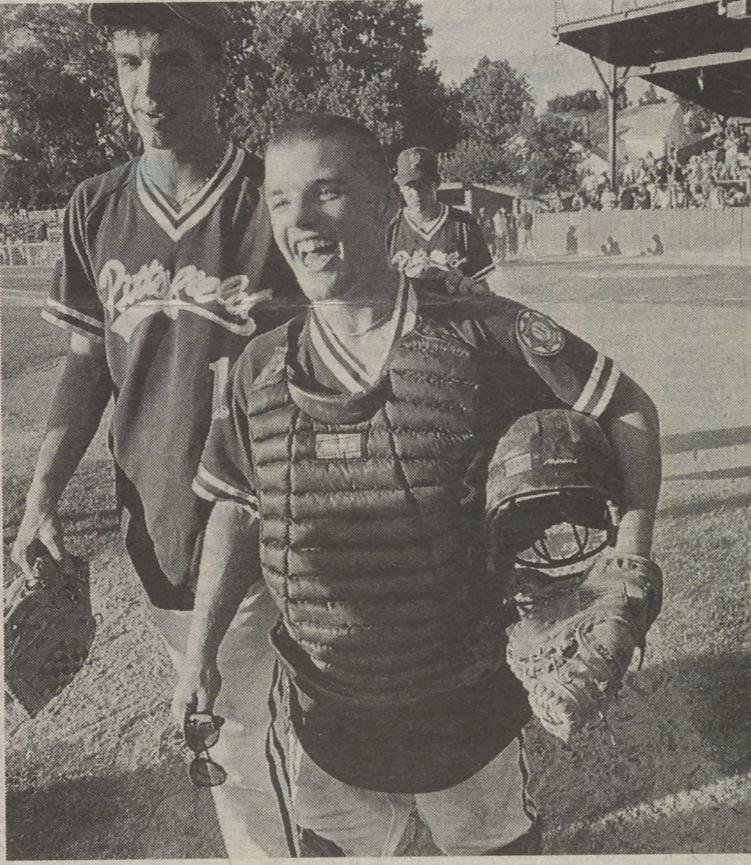
Members of the Pittsfield all-stars load their gear into a van before departing from Sacred Heart School to the Babe Ruth Baseball age 14-15 World Series that opens tomorrow in Millville, N.J. The unbeaten New England regional champions boarded a plane from Albany, N.Y., to Philadelphia, then a bus to Millville to join their host families. Pittsfield opens tomorrow at 3:30 against Glendale, Ariz., in the nine-team, double-elimination tournament, which continues through Aug. 26.

Bob McDonough / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Pittsfield is Series bound



Pittsfield captured the New England Babe Ruth age 14-15 tournament yesterday at Wahconah Park, defeating Manchester 2-1. Above, Jason Harrington forces Manchester's John Velosky out at the plate in the third inning. Below left, Chris Bard of Pittsfield, right, is out trying to steal second base in the first inning. Adam Butkus of Manchester is shown making the play. Below right, Harrington walks off the field with pitcher Ant Marano following the final out.



Locals defeat N.H., 2-1

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — It's true. Lightning does strike twice.

Babe Ruth Tourney

The Pittsfield all-stars pulled off the difficult feat of qualifying for the Babe Ruth World Series in two age groups yesterday, when they gutted out a 2-1 victory over Manchester, N.H., in the championship game of the New England Regional Babe Ruth age 14-15 Tournament at Wahconah Park.

Pittsfield will represent New England in the Babe Ruth age 14-15 World Series in Millville, N.J., Aug. 19-26. It will be the second trip to a Babe Ruth World Series for 12 of the 15 Pittsfield team members who represented New England in the age 13 Series in Arkansas two years ago.

Marano, Jefferson MVP

"They're both pretty cool," said Pittsfield pitcher Ant Marano, selected the New England Regional

SERIES, continued on C3



Photos by Will McCoy

Pittsfield catcher Jason Harrington, above, stretches for the throw while a Barnstable runner scores during Babe Ruth New England Regional play yesterday at Wahconah Park. Below, Pittsfield's Ant Marano is out at the plate after trying to score from third on an overthrow. Barnstable catcher Dave Desley made the play. Pittsfield earned a come-from-behind 6-5 win.

8/10/95



What a feeling! 8/10/95

Jason Harrington of Pittsfield feels good about winning the New England Babe Ruth championship at Wahconah Park yesterday. Story, photos on Page C1.

■ Step from C1

hit," said Marano, who went 3-for-4.

He tripled in the fifth but was thrown out at the plate when he tried to score on an overthrow at third. "I knew if Jason got on, I could get a hit. I haven't been hitting well lately, but today I did."

"I knew he was going to get a hit," Harrington said. "Ant and I called it. We said that with two outs, that it was going to come down to him and me. We said, 'All right, let's do it.' And we did."

"All I told [Marano] was that Harrington was going to steal on the first pitch and he would be on second," Pittsfield manager Jim McDonald said. "He's a good solid high school hitter. So I'm really confident with him."

Harrington and Chris Bard each had two of Pittsfield's eight hits off Barnstable starter and loser Ewing, the Eastern Mass. Babe Ruth Tournament's MVP.

"This is a very composed team," McDonald said. "They've been to a national championship. So I don't worry about them."

Marano was also Pittsfield's starting pitcher, and he got into trouble in the first. After Barnstable loaded the bases with one out on two singles and a fielder's choice, he hit Anthony Nese and Jonathan Gagne with pitches to force in two runs. Barnstable's third run scored on Mark Stevens' infield single.

"For some reason, I always have trouble in the first inning," Marano said.

Held hitless through the first two innings, Pittsfield teed off on Ewing in the third. After pinch hitter Justin Olewnik reached on a dropped third strike, John Sinopoli doubled to right for Pittsfield's first hit, which scored pinch runner Joe

'I knew he was going to get a hit.'

Bateman from first base.

Harrington, Marano, Scott Shove and Bard all followed with singles to score four more runs and give Pittsfield a 5-3 lead.

"I was confident we could come back after the first inning," McDonald said. "I sincerely wanted to get into the winner's bracket because we were using our best pitcher and it would be tough to come back."

However, Barnstable tied the score in the top of the fifth. Bobby Graham doubled in Ewing, who had walked, from first. After Joe Roberson walked, McDonald replaced Marano with left-hander B.J. Jefferson, and Nese followed with a single that scored Graham with the tying run.

Pittsfield almost took the lead in the bottom of the fifth on Marano's triple. When the throw from right field went over Barnstable third baseman Gagne's head, Pittsfield third base coach Mike Tuohy waved Marano home. But Ewing alertly backed up the play and threw home, and Marano was out at the plate.

"I thought he could make it," Tuohy said. "It's a good thing it didn't cost us."

Barnstable threatened in the top of the sixth when Stevens led off with a single. But Jefferson picked him off first base, and Stevens was tagged out at second.

"That was a big play," said Barnstable coach Dave Gagne. "If he doesn't get him, we bunt him over and we've got the second-fastest man on our team on second with one out."



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Joey Bateman of Pittsfield fires to first after forcing a Manchester runner out at second yesterday at Wahconah Park. (C.3)

■ Series from C1

Tournament's co-MVP with teammate and fellow pitcher B.J. Jefferson.

"Everyone is so happy to go back there," Jefferson added.

Pittsfield blew out Manchester 8-2 Monday night to reach the finals but had to struggle to win this game. Held to five hits, Pittsfield scored unearned runs in the first and fifth, and relied on pitching and defense to wiggle out of bases-loaded jams in the second and third. Manchester left 12 runners on base. If Manchester had won the game, the New Hampshire champions would have played a second game with Pittsfield last night for the title.

"It wasn't pretty, but we did it," Pittsfield coach Jim MacDonald said. "It was just good pitching, that's all it was."

Jefferson and Marano had a hand in Pittsfield's three previous tournament victories, and yesterday they did it again.

Winning pitcher Jefferson, who relieved starter Jeff LeDuc in the third inning, pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the third inning and went until the seventh, when he ran out of his allotted amount of tournament innings. Marano replaced him in the seventh and earned a save when the game ended with the winning run literally 15 feet from home plate.

With two out in the bottom of the seventh, Manchester pulled within one run when Marc DiCumes singled John Velosky in from third base. Jay Remillard, who had singled earlier in the inning, went to second on DiCumes' hit.

Jim Freethey followed with a bouncer that went just out of Marano's reach to shortstop Scott Shove. Shove bobbled the ball and couldn't get Freethey at first. Remillard went to third on the grounder but went too far around the bag. Shove saw him, threw to Pittsfield third baseman Jake Kellar, and Remillard was tagged out in a rundown between third and home for the final out.

"I'm surprised it ended that way," MacDonald said. "I don't know why he went."

"Just a kid mistake," Manchester manager Dave Andrews said.

Manchester, which made seven errors against Pittsfield on Monday, made only two yesterday, but they both led to Pittsfield runs.

In the top of the first, lead-off batter John Sinopoli went to sec-

ond on a throwing error, advanced to third on Jason Harrington's ground out and scored when Marano bounded out to third to give Pittsfield a 1-0 lead.

In the fifth, LeDuc reached first on an error, was sacrificed to second by Kurt Kamienski, then scored from there when Sinopoli singled to left.

Manchester, meanwhile, kept threatening to score but couldn't do it.

In the second, Manchester loaded the bases with one out against LeDuc when Freethey and Albie Edmunds singled and Jeremiah Merrill walked. But LeDuc got out of the jam when Kerry Sartell popped to second and Dave Williamson grounded out to first.

Jefferson came on in the third and quickly got into the same kind of trouble as LeDuc. This time Manchester loaded the bases with none out when Velosky reached on an error and Adam Butkus and Remillard singled. DiCumes followed with a grounder to second, but Joe Bateman's throw to the plate was in time to get Velosky.

Freethey fouled out to Pittsfield catcher Harrington for the second out. Jefferson then got Edmunds swinging at a high outside curveball for an inning-ending strike three after twice refusing Harrington's sign for that pitch.

"He was all messed up on that curveball," Harrington said. "I knew he wouldn't hit it."

Kamienski and Chris Bard each had two of Pittsfield's five hits. Bard, Pittsfield's most consistent hitter in the regional, was 9-for-13 in Pittsfield's four tournament games.

Pittsfield takes big first step



Photos by Will McCoy



Jason Harrington, above and second from left, reacts to scoring the game-winning run in the seventh inning for Pittsfield in its game against Barnstable yesterday at Wahconah Park. Ant Marano's two-out single plated Harrington to give the locals a 6-5 victory. Below, a large contingent of local fans also react to the game-winning run.

Marano's hit keys comeback 6-5 triumph over Barnstable

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Ant Marano told The Eagle recently that he likes being in pressure situations. Yesterday, he showed why.

Babe Ruth

Marano singled in Jason Harrington from second base with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning to give the Pittsfield Babe Ruth All-Stars a 6-5 victory over Eastern Mass. champion Barnstable, and a first-round victory in the Babe Ruth age 14-15 New England Regional Tournament at Wahconah Park.

With the win, Pittsfield moves into the winner's bracket of this double-elimination tournament and will play Warwick, R.I., at 7 tonight at Wahconah. Warwick defeated Western Mass. champion Westfield Elks 6-2 yesterday morning.

Besides being a clutch hit, Marano's single was timely. A steady rain began shortly after the Pittsfield game finished, and the wet weather forced the postponement of yesterday's two loser's bracket games until today.

Pittsfield had rebounded from a 3-0 first-inning deficit to take a 5-3 lead with a five-run third. But Barnstable tied the score with two runs in the fifth, setting the stage for Marano's game-winning hit in the seventh.

The rally begins

After two quick outs, Harrington singled to right, then stole second base.

Marano hit a grounder on a 1-1 pitch from Barnstable pitcher Steve Ewing just out of second baseman Jonathan Gagne's reach into right field to score Harrington and give Pittsfield the win.

"I was just trying to get a base

STEP, continued on C3

Rhode Island wins while rain hampers schedule

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Dave Petracca went 3-for-4 including a double, and Eric Flanagan went 2-for-4 with two runs scored as Warwick, R.I., defeated the Westfield Elks 6-2 in yesterday's other first-round game of the Babe Ruth age 14-15 New England Regional Tournament at Wahconah Park.

After Pittsfield nipped Barnstable 6-5 in yesterday's second game, rain postponed the two loser's bracket games until today.

Those games include Trumbull, Conn., vs. Tri County Central of Maine at 10 a.m., with Westfield taking on Barnstable at 1 p.m.

In the winner's bracket today, Brattleboro, Vt., will play Manchester, N.H., at 4 p.m. with the Pittsfield-Warwick game to follow at 7.

Warwick 6, Westfield 2

Warwick got off to a good start against Western Mass. champion Westfield, scor-

ing two runs in the top of the first when Flanagan singled in Dan Dempsey and Joe Bell scored on Steve LiBrandi's sacrifice fly.

Westfield pulled within 2-1 in the bottom of the first on Shannan Garstka's run-scoring single. Warwick increased its lead to 4-1 in the second on Bell's run-scoring single and Bill Donovan's sacrifice fly.

Brian Barnowski's run-scoring single in the bottom of the second pulled Westfield

to within 4-2. But Warwick scored an unearned run in the fourth and added a single run in the fifth on Petracca's run-scoring double to put the game out of reach.

Warwick thwarted further Westfield scoring attempts with four double plays.

Winning pitcher Dempsey allowed seven hits and two runs, only one earned, in a complete-game performance. Starter Mike Szenda took the loss for Westfield with Nick Callini finishing in relief.

Pittsfield boys reach title game

8/18/95

*One win from Series
after solid 8-2 victory*

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Finally getting the hitting they had lacked, and again using their speed to set up scoring chances, the Pittsfield all-stars beat Manchester, N.H., 8-2 at Wahconah Park last night to advance to the New England Babe Ruth Regional age 14-15 Tournament finals.

Chris Bard and Ant Marano each had three hits for Pittsfield, the only unbeaten team left in the double-elimination tournament. Pittsfield will play for the tournament championship tomorrow against the survivor of today's loser's bracket games.

"We're in the driver's seat," Pittsfield coach Jim MacDonald said. "We've got to play the rest of the tournament, but we're the team to beat right now."

In yesterday's other games, Trumbull, Conn., nipped Brattleboro, Vt., 4-3, while Westfield topped Warwick, R.I., 5-1. Both Brattleboro and Warwick were eliminated with the losses.

In today's games, Westfield and Trumbull play at 5, with the winner facing Manchester at 8.

Pittsfield will play the winner of that game tomorrow at 5. If Pittsfield loses, a second game will be played tomorrow at 8. The New England Regional winner advances to the Babe Ruth World Series in Millville, N.J., Aug. 19-26.

Pittsfield 8, Manchester 2

After two tensely played games in which they had a combined total of 12 hits, Pittsfield exploded for 11 hits, stole four bases in five attempts, and took advantage of seven Manchester errors that helped set up runs.

"We're getting loose now," MacDonald said. "Other than one part of our batting order, we were really tight. I told them to get up there and have some fun. Hitting to me is contagious. When you have the big inning, it works."

Pittsfield fell behind 1-0 in the top of the first, but rebounded with two runs in the bottom of the frame to go up 2-1. John Sinopoli led off with a single, then scored on Jason Harrington's triple to center. Harrington scored when Marano grounded out to second.

"When Sinopoli got that first hit, and I got that triple, that got us up," Harrington said.

Pittsfield increased its margin to 5-1 with three runs in the second as Manchester made four of its seven errors.

"I think they were nervous," Manchester pitching coach Bill Barrie said of his team. "We'd only

Babe Ruth N.E. Tourney

(At Wahconah Park)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Pittsfield 8, Manchester, N.H. 2
Westfield 5, Warwick, R.I. 1
Trumbull, Conn. 4, Brattleboro, Vt. 3

TODAY'S GAMES

Westfield vs. Trumbull, 5 p.m.
Game 1 winner vs. Manchester, 8 p.m.

made one error in our first two games."

In the third, B.J. Jefferson tripled, Kurt Kamienski walked, then stole second, and Joe Bate-man singled both runners home to put Pittsfield up 7-1.

Manchester cut Pittsfield's lead to 7-2 with a single run in the fifth, before Pittsfield completed the scoring in the sixth. Marano tripled to the warning track in left, then scored on Bard's single.

Jefferson and Marano, both pitching for the third consecutive game, gave up a combined total of eight hits. Starter Jefferson, who went three innings, was the winner.

Manchester starter Travis Veil- leux, who went 3 1/3 innings, took the loss.

Trumbull 4, Brattleboro 3

Trumbull rallied from a 3-0 deficit to pull the game out with none out in the bottom of the seventh on Tony Furnari's two-run double.

Brattleboro took its 3-0 lead in the third when Carlos Tilghman scored on a wild pitch, Mike Gifford singled in Butch Berrie, and Gifford scored on Ben Gilbert's double.

Trumbull pulled within 3-2 in the fourth when Damon Senentilli tripled in Jeff Murdoch, then scored on Jordan Reed's squeeze bunt.

Senentilli, Trumbull's third pitcher, was the winner. He also had three hits. Losing pitcher Greg Hutchins allowed eight hits and struck out three in a complete-game performance.

Westfield 5, Warwick 1

Westfield avenged a 6-2 loss to Warwick on Saturday, topping the Rhode Island champions behind Mike Szenda's complete game four-hitter.

Warwick, which made five errors against Pittsfield on Sunday, made four more yesterday that led to all five Westfield runs.

Seth Jerue had two of Westfield's five hits off Warwick pitchers Mike Dauber and Richard Moniz. Dauber, who started, took the loss.



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff
Youngsters in the Midget Boys division take off from the starting line as race officials look on during the Pittsfield Short Track Speed Skating Championships on Sunday in North Adams.

DiNicola sweeps masters races

Winter Carnival speed skating draws 123 competitors

NORTH ADAMS — Mary Lou DiNicola of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club captured the Masters Women's title at the Pittsfield Short Track Speed Skating Championships on Sunday at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Rink.

DiNicola, a North America masters champion from Pittsfield many times, won the 500-, 1,000- and 1,500-meter races in her category.

Two other Pittsfield club members earned second-place overall finishes in their categories. Danny Fonseca of Pittsfield was second in the Midget Boys category with seconds in the 333 and 777 races, while teammate Theresa Sime of Stephentown, N.Y., was second in the Pony Girls division with seconds in the 222, 333 and 444.

The competition, part of the 50th annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival, attracted 123 skaters from throughout the Northeast. Carl Peaslee of Pittsfield was chairman of the event, sponsored by the Pitts-

field Winter Sports Committee. New York skaters won overall titles in 12 of 19 categories.

Division winners are as follows:

Senior Men A: Jeb Gorham, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
Senior Men B: Marty Haire, Saratoga Springs.
Masters Men: Rick Barber, Clifton Park, N.Y.
Grand Masters Men: Howard Ganong, Clifton Park.
Intermediate Men: Will White, White Plains, N.Y.
Junior Boys: Daniel Wilson, Boston.
Juvenile Boys: Jim Cooley, Saratoga Springs.
Midget Boys: Chui Lee, Lyndhurst, N.J.
Pony Boys: Luke Harris, Belmont.
Pee Wee Boys: Adam McMahon, Syracuse, N.Y.
Senior Women A: Erin Porter, Saratoga Springs.
Senior Women B: Alison Sawyer, New York City.
Masters Women: Mary Lou DiNicola, Pittsfield.
Intermediate Women: Christine Benda, Springfield.
Junior Girls: Anna Karpovsky, Newton.
Juvenile Girls: Penelope Lang, Arlington.
Midget Girls: Stacy Clever, Saratoga Springs.
Pony Girls: Caitlin Everett, Ballston Spa, N.Y.
Pee Wee Girls: Virginia Burns, Syracuse.



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

2-20-95

All in a row

Racers in the juvenile girls' division streak around the oval at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Rink in North Adams during yesterday's Pittsfield Winter Carnival speed-skating competition. More than 100 skaters took part in 20 divisions.

Indoor speed skating slated Sunday

Speed skaters from throughout the eastern United States are expected to compete in the Pittsfield Short Track Speed Skating Championships on Sunday at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Rink in North Adams. Skaters training at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, N.Y., are also expected, according to chairman Carl Peaslee.

The event, part of the 50th annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival, begins at noon, and admission is free.

2-15-95

DiNicola wins eastern skating title

Mary Lou DiNicola of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club won the grand master women's division at the Eastern Seaboard Long Track Speed Skating Championships recently at Lake Placid, N.Y. She finished first in the 500-, 800-, 1,000- and 1,500-meter races. Her club teammate Arthur Ruff was fourth in the 1,000 and 1,500 in the masters men's division.

At the Syracuse (N.Y.) Short Track Speed Skating Championships last weekend, Kayla Farry of the Pittsfield club was third overall in her division, placing second in the 500-meter and third in the 333 and 400.

Skating club slates how-to program

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club, in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation, has announced a learn-to-skate program Dec. 26 through Dec. 29 at the Pittsfield Boys' and Girls' Club from 11:45 to 12:45 each day.

Registration will be Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Department of Parks and Recreation office, 874 North St., from 6:30 to 7 p.m. The registration is for Pittsfield youth only and the first 80 will be accepted. Cost of the program is \$15.

If vacancies occur, registrations can be made by calling the Department of Parks and Recreation on Friday, Dec. 8, at 499-9343.

Children must have their own skates (no double runners), a helmet and gloves or mittens, the announcement said. 12/14/95

Speed skating club offering instruction

PITTSFIELD — Mario DeBarolo, president of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club, has announced that Bill Farry and Mary Lou DiNicola will be the instructors for the learn-to-skate program to be held at the Pittsfield Boys' and Girls' Club on Tuesday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 29, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Registration may be made by calling the Department of Parks and Recreation office at 499-9343.

Children must have their own skates, a helmet, and gloves or mittens.

12/14/95

Pittsfield speed skaters in Saratoga

Two members of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club competed in the Eastern States Long Track Speedskating Championships in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on Sunday.

Theresa Sime finished second overall in the pony girls' division, taking seconds in the 200, 300, 400 and 500-meter events. Her brother Tim was third overall in the midget boys' class, finishing third in the 500 and 600 and fourth in the 300 and 800 races.

1-15-95

Speed skating club to meet tonight

The Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club will hold an organizational meeting tonight at Springside House, 874 North St., Pittsfield, beginning at 7 p.m. Inline skaters are also welcome.

10/13/15

DiNicola wins speed skating title

Mary Lou DiNicola of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club finished tied for the masters title in the Eastern States Short Track Championships in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

DiNicola finished first in the 500 and 1,500 meter events, and finished tied for second in the 777 and 1,000 meter races with Liz Marchese of West Coxsackie, N.Y.

11/16/95

Pittsfield youth teams shine at girls' state softball event

There were no state titles to take home, but three Pittsfield Parks Department girls' youth softball teams performed very ably at state tournaments this past weekend.

The Pittsfield age 16 & under and age 14 & under squads each placed second in state events while the age 12 & under team placed third.

Host Amherst defeated Pittsfield 9-0 in the finals of the age 16 tournament while Greenfield defeated Pittsfield 13-11 in nine innings in the championship game of the age 14 event, also held in Amherst.

The age 14 team was unbeaten heading into the championship round, but lost twice to Greenfield A in the finals.

The age 12 tournament was held in Leominster, where the Pittsfield team garnered a third-place finish.

The trio of local teams all qualified for the regional tournament, which will be played this weekend. The age 12 and 16 teams will compete in Cranston, R.I., while the age 14 team heads to Greenfield.

The top five teams from the regionals advance to the nationals. The age 16 na-

tional are in Mississippi while the 14s would advance to Florida. The age 12 nationals are in Ohio.

Age 16 & under

AMHERST — The Pittsfield Maulers opened the tournament in convincing style, gaining a 13-1 win over Northampton and defeating Leominster 9-1. Against Northampton, winning pitcher Leslie Ciepiela had three hits and two RBIs while Rachel O'Connell and Lisa Herrick each had three hits and two RBIs. Kate Righi added three RBIs.

The O'Connells — Rachel and Rebecca — combined for five hits and four runs and four RBIs in the win over Leominster. Erin Rice had two RBIs and Kathleen Berube two hits.

The Maulers were then stalled by host Amherst 2-1 and thrust into the loser's bracket. Marianna Eddy had two hits for the Maulers in the loss.

The local team then blanked Greenfield 10-0 behind Ciepiela's five-hitter. Ciepiela helped her own cause with four hits while Erin Rice had a home run and three

RBIs. Kate Righi added two home runs and three RBIs.

This brought the Maulers back around to Amherst in the championship round. But they needed two wins to earn the state title. The Maulers forced a second game with a 5-4 triumph, with Jen Galvagni sparking the winners with 2 hits and two RBIs. Ciepiela and Berube each added two hits.

Amherst, however, won the final game 9-0. Rachel O'Connell had two hits for the Maulers in the finale.

Age 14 & under

AMHERST — Pittsfield opened with a 9-1 win over Easthampton, with Erin Michaels and Ashley Zanconato splitting the pitching duties for the winners. Kim Bourdeau had three hits for Pittsfield while Kate Farry had two hits including a double and two RBIs. Ryan Kennedy had a double and Leanne Davis had two RBIs.

Pittsfield cruised past the Greenfield B team 18-3 behind Zanconato's two-hitter. Bourdeau had a three-run triple while Kristen Massimiano had three hits and Karen Carlo two hits.

Pittsfield used the leather in its third game, turning four double plays in an 11-1 win over Amherst. Carlo had three hits and two RBIs while Davis had three hits and three RBIs. Zanconato and Michaels each added two-run triples.

That win put Pittsfield in the finals where they lost to Greenfield 9-3. Farry had three hits and Carlo two hits.

Greenfield's win forced a wild second game for the state title. Trailing 8-3, Pittsfield scored seven runs in the home sixth to take a 10-8 lead. RBI singles in the frame came from Michaels, Carlo, Kate Cella, Zanconato and Kennedy. Bourdeau and Jamie Krueger each had sacrifice flies.

Greenfield showed its mettle by tying the game 10-10, rallying with two out and no one on base. Greenfield then scored three runs in the ninth with Pittsfield tallying one run in the home half of the frame.

Age 12 & under

LEOMINSTER — The 12s also got off to a quick start, defeating Amherst 4-3 in

their opener and blanking Southampton 6-0. In the opener, Lindsay Brodeur and Angela Rocca each had two hits while Missy Tirell added two RBIs.

A pinch-hit two-run double by Holly Capitanio sparked Pittsfield in the win over Southampton. Jenny Lemberg stung the ball for three hits in the Pittsfield victory.

Pittsfield then dropped a 12-2 decision to Northampton, with Brodeur and Erin Kennedy each collecting two hits for Pittsfield.

Pittsfield bounced back with a 14-2 win over Sterling. Meghan Eddy had three hits and three RBIs while Katie Grady drove in three runs. Angela Rocca added two hits and two RBIs.

Pittsfield then scored a 10-4 win over Northampton. Lemberg was again at the front of the offensive assault with two hits and two RBIs, a feat equaled by teammate Katrisha Tillman.

Pittsfield was then eliminated by Amherst 6-1. Eddy pitched all the games for the Pittsfield team.

Council panel backs \$25,000 softball study

■ SOFTBALL, from B1

posal.

Aside from the fields, fences and benches, the \$250,000 expenditure would cover the installation of underground conduits for future electrical work and irrigation systems, Reilly's memo says. In addition, a small equipment storage shed would be located at the complex, which proponents now believe should be in Springside Park off Benedict Road, although the feasibility study would include evaluation of other locations in the city.

Stracuzzi questions plan

Councilor at large Angelo C. Stracuzzi, who cast the lone vote against recommending the expenditure to the full Council, said he did so because the proposal lacks a long-range operation and maintenance plan.

Observing that the city's financial situation prohibits thorough maintenance of park land that has already been developed for recreational purposes, Stracuzzi warned that "we could have egg on our faces" if the softball complex were built, only to fall into disrepair within a few years.

"I very much want to support this, but I'm not going to vote blindly," he said. "Let's talk up

front about the costs."

Doyle and others, including Park Commission Chairman Anthony G. Massimiano, argued that the detailed answers needed to address the types of concerns Stracuzzi raised will be provided by the study.

"We have a golden opportunity to do something wonderful for this city," Massimiano said. "... This is the kind of thing we need in the city.... If you build it, the maintenance will come."

Councilor Francis B. Marinaro of Ward 5, a member of the committee, agreed with Massimiano that parents and other supporters of league athletics will contribute money and time to maintenance tasks. However, he said he will review the study with an eye toward evaluating whether the "seed" money to be invested in the complex is in line with taxpayer-funded support of similar projects.

Marinaro and City Council President Joseph W. Ryan Jr. voted in favor of the recommendation. Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos and Councilor Thomas E. Hickey Jr. of Ward 3 were absent from the meeting. Ryan said Hickey couldn't be there because of a family commitment.

Softball 1/6/95 study gets backing

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The City Council's Finance Committee voted 2-1 last night to recommend that the Council spend \$25,000 on a detailed study of the feasibility of building a girls' softball complex.

The amount is much less than what the backers of the project had originally envisioned. When the proposal was advanced several months ago by Councilor at large Gerald S. Doyle Jr. and others, the request for design funds was to have been for \$40,000.

Since then, however, the scope of the entire project has been narrowed from a four-field complex with numerous amenities that would cost an estimated \$400,000 to build, to the construction of the four fields, fences and players' benches at a cost of \$250,000.

"... It is clear that the city would be best served by designing and constructing a softball area over a time period, in which the amenities would be added when needed," said a memorandum to the Council from Mayor Edward M. Reilly, who drafted the document after meeting with city officials and members of a "selection committee" that favors the pro-

SOFTBALL, continued on B2

Girls' softball complex makes sense

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

The construction and maintenance of the proposed girls' softball complex need not be as financially burdensome as perceived. In-kind donations of labor and materials, grants, fundraising, etc., could augment available city funds. Presently, fields scattered throughout the city are groomed by league coaches, parents and officials on a volunteer basis. Other communities have built, maintained and adminis-

tered their complexes in this manner.

The main advantage of having a complex versus scattered fields is the ability to run money-making tournaments throughout the summer. These profits offset maintenance and improvement costs and, if run with creativity, can recoup initial investments.

Consider that the softball program serves mainly youth. These tournaments draw families ranging from toddlers to grandparents.

Most teams carry a roster of 20. A four-field complex with lights avails itself easily to a 20-team tournament. If there are 80 to 100 spectators per team, this translates to 1,600 to 2,000 people per tournament. Several out-of-state families have remarked that they love coming to our tournament but are disappointed in our field and facilities.

The availability of lights is also key to recouping an outlay more quickly. It gains time in the schedule for larger tournaments, and allows round-robin rather than elimination tournaments, so the teams are there for the whole tournament. It allows for subletting the field for adult women's leagues that now have no home field. The three local high schools and booster clubs would mutually benefit.

Several Pittsfield softball players have been actively recruited by college coaches. In many instances, a player's experience as an all-star and high school player has gained the player entrance to the college of her choice. These are dividends that must be taken seriously.

This complex would be yet another attraction to Pittsfield. The summer attractions in the surrounding Berkshires bring people in; let them see that Pittsfield offers no less.

LORITA DECORIE
40 Quirico Drive
Pittsfield, Jan. 6, 1995

Pittsfield youth teams shine at girls' state softball event

There were no state titles to take home, but three Pittsfield Parks Department girls' youth softball teams performed very well at state tournaments this past weekend.

The Pittsfield age 16 & under and age 14 & under squads each placed second in state events while the age 12 & under team placed third.

Host Amherst defeated Pittsfield 9-0 in the finals of the age 16 tournament while Greenfield defeated Pittsfield 13-11 in nine innings in the championship game of the age 14 event, also held in Amherst.

The age 14 team was unbeaten heading into the championship round, but lost twice to Greenfield A in the finals.

The age 12 tournament was held in Leominster, where the Pittsfield team garnered a third-place finish.

The trio of local teams all qualified for the regional tournament, which will be played this weekend. The age 12 and 16 teams will compete in Cranston, R.I., while the age 14 team heads to Greenfield.

The top five teams from the regionals advance to the nationals. The age 16 na-

tional team is in Mississippi while the 14s would advance to Florida. The age 12 and 16s are in Ohio.

Age 16 & under

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Against Northampton, winning pitcher Leslie Ciepiela had three hits and two RBIs while Rachel O'Connell and Erin Herrick each had three hits and two RBIs. Kate Righi added three RBIs.

The O'Connells — Rachel and Rebecca — combined for five hits in the win over Leominster. Erin Rice had two RBIs and Kathleen Berube two hits.

The Maulers were then stalled by host Amherst 2-1 and thrust into the loser's bracket. Marianna Eddy had two hits for the Maulers in the loss.

The local team then blanked Greenfield 10-0 behind Ciepiela's five-hitter. Ciepiela helped her own cause with four hits while Erin Rice had a home run and three RBIs.

Pittsfield, Kate Righi added two home runs and three RBIs. This brought the Maulers back around to Amherst in the championship round. But they needed two wins to earn the state title. The Maulers forced a second game with a 5-4 triumph, with Jen Galvagni sparking the winners with two hits and two RBIs. Ciepiela and Berube each added two hits.

Pittsfield then dropped a 12-2 decision to Northampton, with Brodeur and Erin Captainio sparred Pittsfield 10-6. In the opener, Lindsay Brodeur and Angela Rocca each had two hits while Missy Tirrell added two RBIs.

A pinch-hit two-run double by Holly Ciepiela sparked Pittsfield 10-6. In the win over Northampton, Jenny Lemburg stung the ball for three hits in the Pittsfield victory.

Pittsfield then dropped a 12-2 decision to Northampton, with Brodeur and Erin Captainio sparred Pittsfield 10-6. In the win put Pittsfield in the finals where they lost 6-3. Farry had three hits and Carlo two hits.

Pittsfield then scored back with a 14-2 win over Northampton. Marianna Eddy had three hits and three RBIs while Katie Grady drove in three runs. Angela Rocca added two hits and two RBIs.

Pittsfield then scored a 10-4 win over Northampton. Lemburg was again at the front of the offensive assault with two hits and two RBIs, a feat equalled by teammate Katirisha Tillman.

Pittsfield was then eliminated by Amherst 6-1. Eddy pitched all the games for the Pittsfield team.

Age 12 & under

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COUNCIL REPORT

Softball complex plan scores \$25,000 study

City councilors approved a \$25,000 feasibility study Tuesday for a proposed girls' softball complex.

Only Angelo Stracuzzi opposed the study. "I want to vote for it desperately," Stracuzzi said, lamenting what he termed possible financial implications that make the study premature.

Gerald Doyle, Jr., who chaired an advisory committee that focused on a possible design for a four-field facility at Springside Park, expressed confidence that the project will prove worthwhile.

"I firmly believe this is very important for the development of Springside Park as a true recreational facility," said Doyle. He commended the volunteers who served on his committee and provided in-kind services.

The \$25,000 will fund a design report on a project currently expected to cost \$250,000 — with possible future expenditures for enhancements. Initially, Doyle's group sought \$40,000 for a study and contemplated a more elaborate \$450,000 facility. This past week, the council's finance subcommittee recommended scaling back that plan.

Peter Arlos said the complex is overdue: "It's important that we have this facility, particularly for girls at this age." The councilor said organized sports build self-esteem and teamwork.

Fran Marinaro said "the city is finally taking a step forward." The councilor sought to broaden the scope of the study to investigate field capacity to possibly include soccer, football, tennis and jogging trails in the future.

"I want to have the capacity to expand like those new computers," Marinaro said.

Ben Kaplan voted for the study but said he had to "sprinkle a lot of reality dust on this." The councilor suggested the project will require funds that might be needed for more pressing projects such as school building upgrades.

Stracuzzi said the general idea is meritorious but that the council needs a better idea of financial considerations before committing to expensive studies.

"I'm not sure we've examined the costs," he said. "How are we going to operate it? How are we going to maintain it? We can't even maintain the parks we have here."

Mayor Edward Reilly said that when the study is completed, he will provide councilors with a five year operating plan before they are asked to authorize capital bond expenditures.

1-12-95

Maulers win title in '95 tourney debut

EASTHAMPTON — The Pittsfield Parks Department "Mass. Maulers" 16-and-under girls' slow-pitch softball team opened its season last weekend by capturing the championship of the Caouette Invitational Tournament. The Pittsfield squad went 5-1 to win the eight-team, double-elimination event, avenging an earlier loss by defeating Amherst twice in the championship finals.

In the Maulers' opener, Leslie Ciepiela pitched a seven-hit shutout, Rachel O'Connell had four hits, Erin Rice three hits including a homer, Mary Beth Berube three hits and Kate Righi a single, triple and three RBIs in a 14-0 win over Smithfield, R.I.

In Game 2, O'Connell had three hits and Berube a double and two RBIs in a 6-2 win over Granite State of New Hampshire. Pittsfield lost Game 3 to Amherst, 2-1 in eight innings, despite two hits each from Rebecca O'Connell and Marianna Eddy.

In Game 4, Ciepiela pitched a four-hitter and Lisa Herrick had two hits and two RBIs in a 4-1 win over Smithfield.

In the finals, Pittsfield scored a 3-1 win in eight innings over Amherst, as Ciepiela pitched a five-hitter, Rice had three hits and Righi, Ciepiela and Berube had two hits each.

Maulers draw tough team

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

It was a couple of bits of news that Mass Maulers coach Joe McGovern did not want to hear.

"Well, we did it again," said McGovern, who has his Pittsfield age-16-and-under softball team in Meridian, Miss., for the national softball championships.

What McGovern did yesterday was draw one of the top teams in the tournament for his opening game. The same thing happened in 1991, when the Maulers went to Meridian and drew the Pembroke (Fla.) Pacers, who went on to win the tournament.

The draw yesterday thrust Pittsfield against the Oklahoma Renegades, who recently placed second in an 80-team tournament sponsored by the USSSA softball organization. The national event in Mississippi is being sponsored by the ASA.

MAULERS, continued on C3

8/11/95

Pittsfield summer softball sign-ups

Sign-ups for the Pittsfield Parks and Recreation Department's Girls' Summer Softball League will take place at Springside House in Pittsfield on Saturday, April 22, from 10 to noon and Monday, April 24, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Girls age 9-17 are eligible. Both new and returning players must register. The fee is \$15 for the first child from a family, and \$10 thereafter. The fee is payable at registration.

The league also needs coaches and assistant coaches for the major league (age 13-17), and minor league (age 9-13). Anyone interested in coaching should call league president Alan Righi at 499-4500 during the day or 442-4928 at night.

4-14-95

Scaled-back plans for girls' facility advance

According to city councilor Gerald Doyle, Jr., plans for a girls' softball complex at Springside Park are moving forward but have been scaled back due to costs.



Doyle said bids received for the project two weeks ago were "a little bit high" so city officials are working to fit the project into the budgeted \$25,000.

"It's been scaled down quite a bit," Doyle said, noting that the complex will be designed with future expansion in mind. For example, lights will not be installed but the concrete basing stanchions will be in place.

The project will include four playing fields, all with fences at the regulation 250 foot distance for women's softball.

"Our goal is to have all the girls' and women's softball events here," Doyle said.

The facility will be built on the eastern corner of Springside Park off North Street, encompassing about eight acres of land.

A field near the planned complex site, currently used for Babe Ruth league baseball, will not be used as a softball practice field as originally proposed.

Doyle said that he is happy with the progress that has been made and hopes to have the scaled-down proposal ready within three weeks.

The facility would not hurt the Berkshire County Softball Complex, Doyle believes. "I don't think it will at all," he said. "[BCSC director Jim] Bridges has worked with us on the complex. Jim has been very helpful with this."

Girls' Softball

That forced a final showdown with Amherst, since each team had one loss. In the finale, Rachel O'Connell had three hits, Rice two and Righi a double and two RBIs in the Maulers' 12-9 victory.

The Maulers, coached by Joe McGovern, play June 30-July 2 in the Firecracker Invitational in Smithfield, then go to the state championships July 8-9 in Amherst. The top five finishers in the state championships earn a berth in the New England Regionals July 14-16 in Cranston, R.I. The top five finishers in the regionals earn a berth in the nationals Aug. 10-13 in Meridian, Miss.

The Maulers and other Pittsfield teams will also host the Pittsfield Invitational Tournament July 29-30 at the Berkshire County Softball Complex.

Berkshire girls in Metro League

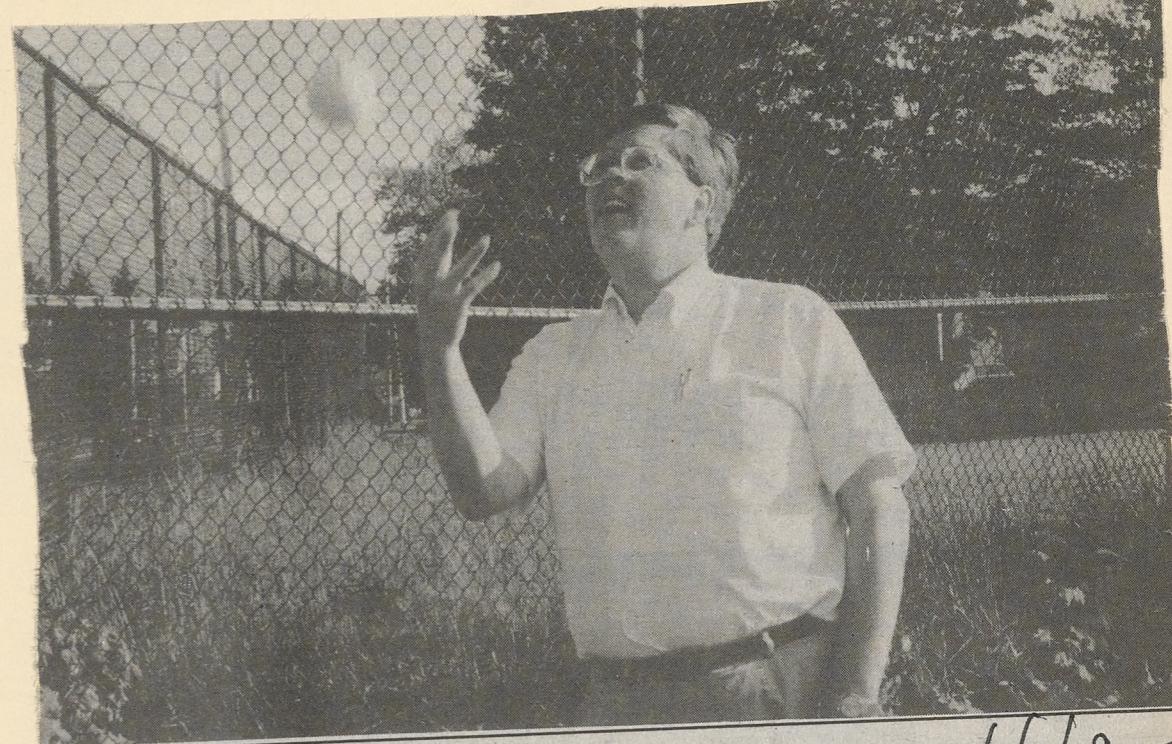
The Berkshire Generals, a team of softball players from Berkshire County, will be playing in the 14-team Springfield-area Metro League this summer.

The Metro League is a fast-pitch league for

Tryouts set for softball travel team

Tryouts for the Pittsfield Parks & Recreation age 13-14 girls' traveling softball team have been scheduled behind Pittsfield High School on Saturday from 9 to 11 and Sunday from 4 to 6. Further information is available from Janice Farrell, 499-6375.

5-18-95



Warming up

6/1/95
Mayor Edward Reilly warmed up his pitching arm Tuesday in anticipation of throwing the first pitch in Parks Department's girls softball summer league. The preparation paid off — the mayor threw a strike.

Maulers start fund-raising for nationals

The "Mass Maulers," Pittsfield's 16-and-under regional champion girls' softball team, has started raising funds to pay for its trip to the national tournament Aug. 10-13 in Meridian, Miss.

The team expects to need \$12,000 to pay for transportation, accommodations and food for 19 team members. Players and parents will be conducting fund-raising events and soliciting sponsorships.

Donations may be sent to Alan Righi, 56 Bartlett Ave., Pittsfield 01201. Checks should be payable to the Pittsfield Mass Maulers.

Further information is available from Maulers coach Joe McGovern, 562-2301 or 568-1140.

7/20/95

Maulers reach their destination

MERIDIAN, Miss. — It took 24 hours, but the Pittsfield "Mass Maulers" reached the site of the girls' national age 16 and under softball championships yesterday afternoon.

Last night, the Maulers shook off their travel lethargy by competing in the national skills competition with members of the tournament's 50 other teams.

The teams took part in a home run derby, and in throwing and base running competition.

"We had some good performances, but no one finished first," Maulers' coach Joe McGovern said.

The tournament drawing takes place at 11 this morning. McGovern does not know when the Maulers play their first game, but it could be as early as this afternoon.

The Maulers bring a 28-5 record into the nationals. They won five tournament championships this summer, including the New England Regionals, and placed second in the Massachusetts state tournament.

8/10/95

Maulers from C1

8/11/95

The other news that had McGovern edgy was that yesterday's game was to be played at 10 p.m. [Meridian is one hour behind Pittsfield, which means the game would start at 11 Eastern Standard Time and would be completed too late for results to appear in today's Eagle.]

If there is good news, it's that the Maulers won't be playing in the searing heat.

"We had an early practice," McGovern said. "But the heat, it's really bizarre. It's sweltering. I don't even have to move to sweat."

The Maulers are the New England champions in their age

group, and McGovern said his players wouldn't be intimidated by the Oklahoma team.

"Our goal right along has been to come down here and win a national championship," he said.

"And we're probably better than about 35 of the 39 teams that are here. But there's that top four or five. And if you have to play one of those teams, you usually need a break or two to get a win."

A victory yesterday would mean that the Maulers would play today at 3. A loss would put them in the loser's bracket, with today's first game at 12:30. If the Maulers keep winning, they would play games today at 5:30 and 9:30.

The tournament concludes tomorrow.

Two Pittsfield teams to return to softball nationals

Maulers win N.E. girls' tourney; Moldmaster men take Class B title

By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Remember 1994, when the Pittsfield Parks Department "Mass Maulers" 16-and-under girls' team and the Moldmaster Engineering men's team both went to national slow-pitch softball tournaments?

Well, thanks to their championship efforts over the weekend, both teams are headed back to the nationals.

Coach Joe McGovern's Maulers came out of the loser's bracket at the New England Regional 16-and-under tournament Sunday at Cranston, R.I., winning six straight games — including the last three by shutout — to win the tournament championship and earn a berth in the national tournament Aug. 10-12 in Meridian, Miss.

Moldmaster, now officially named Moldmaster/Dudley thanks to its affiliation with the softball equipment manufacturer, won five out of six games and also came out of the loser's bracket to win the Western State Class B tourna-

ment Sunday in South Dartmouth. The victory, saved by a game-ending, home run-robbing catch by outfielder Mike Fletcher in the finale, earns them a berth in the Class B nationals Sept. 21-23 in Shreveport, La.

Two other Pittsfield girls' teams also took part in regionals over the weekend. The 14-and-under team finished third at Greenfield and the 12-and-under team went 1-2 at Cranston.

The 14-and-under team qualified for the nationals as a top-five finisher, but opted against going to the nationals in Jacksonville, Fla.

"We told the girls we weren't going unless we finished first or second," Pittsfield coach Janice Farrell said. "Raising

money to take a third-place team would be tough, and it would be taking money away from Joe's team."

Maulers do it again

The Maulers, who outscored their opposition 45-6 in eight games, are making a habit of this national tournament thing. Many of the same players were part of the 12-and-under team that went to the nationals in Meridian in 1990, the 14-and-under team that went to Oregon, Ohio, in 1993, and the 16-and-under team that went to Jacksonville, Fla., last year.

All the team needed was a top-five finish to qualify for nationals, "but we weren't going unless we won, or finished a really strong second," said Maulers

coach Joe McGovern. "If you can't win the New Englands, which is really one of the weaker regions, there's no reason to go to the nationals."

Over the weekend, the Maulers split their first two games, then swept their next six, including a sweep in the finals over Westerly, R.I., the only team to beat them.

In Game 1, the Maulers rolled past Apponaug, R.I., 16-0, as Rachel O'Connell went 4-for-4 and Rebecca O'Connell 3-for-3. Game 2 was a different story, as Westerly pulled out a 1-0 win to send the Maulers to the loser's bracket.

The Maulers then won two games late Saturday, 4-1 over host Cranston and 4-3

SOFTBALL, continued on A7

■ Softball from A6

7/18/95

over Johnston, R.I. Winning pitcher Leslie Ciepiela had two hits and two RBIs against Cranston, and Ciepiela pitched a four-hitter and Rachel O'Connell had two hits against Johnston, as the Maulers built a 4-0 lead and survived a three-run Johnston rally in the last inning.

That left four games for Sunday. First, the Maulers gave up the tying run in the bottom of the seventh, then pulled out a 2-1 win in the ninth inning over Mass. state champion Amherst. Rachel O'Connell had three hits and singled home the winning run in the ninth.

Next, the Maulers avenged their loss to Westerly, as Ciepiela pitched a seven-hitter in a 3-0 win. Lisa Herrick, Jen Galvagni, Erin Rice and Marianna Eddy had two hits each.

That sent the Maulers against the tournament's unbeaten team, Granite State of New Hampshire, and Pittsfield swept them 12-0 and 4-0 for the title.

"After they beat Westerly, they just caught fire and ripped the ball," McGovern said of the Maulers.

In the 12-0 game, Ciepiela pitched a four-hitter and had three hits and three RBIs, and Rachel O'Connell and Kathleen Berube had three hits and two RBIs each. In the finale, the Maulers broke open a 0-0 game with four runs in the fifth, when Rice had a two-run double and Berube and Rachel O'Connell hit run-scoring singles.

"Our defense was just incredible all weekend," McGovern said. "If this team hits, we can be in the top five in the nationals, maybe win it all, because defensively, they're as good as anybody."

Team parents are scheduled to meet tonight to discuss plans for raising the \$10,000 to \$12,000 needed to pay for the trip to the nationals.

Moldmaster makes it

Moldmaster/Dudley rolled to victory in its first two games, lost to Copper Door in Game 3, then avenged that loss with a sweep of the Springfield team in the two-game championship finale of their South Shore tournament.

In the first game of the championship showdown, Chris Barb-

arotta hit his fourth home run of the tournament and went 3-for-3 with four RBIs and Ed Sherman had three hits in a 7-4 win over Copper Door.

setting up the final showdown against Copper Door.

Moldmaster last year went 1-2 in three games at the national tournament in Orlando, Fla.

Pittsfield 14s are 3rd

The host Greenfield team, which had beaten Pittsfield in the state finals, continued to prove their nemesis, handing Pittsfield both its losses in the regional tournament.

Pittsfield opened with a 7-0 win over Westerly, R.I., as Ashley Zanconato pitched a three-hit shutout and had three hits and two RBIs. Then came a 9-8 loss to Greenfield, despite four hits and two RBIs by Kate Farry and a two-run triple in the seventh by Kim Bordeau.

Pittsfield then won twice Saturday, 10-1 over the Amherst Titans, as Kate Cella had two hits and two RBIs, and 11-2 over Apponaug, R.I., as Farry had two hits, including a two-run double.

On Sunday, Pittsfield beat Gloucester, R.I., 7-2, then Westerly again, 12-3, as Ryan Kennedy had two hits and three RBIs. In the loser's bracket final, Pittsfield lost 7-4 to Greenfield, despite two hits and two RBIs from Erin Michaels.

8/12/95

Maulers are ousted at nationals

Pittsfield girls fall 4-3, go 1-2 in softball tourney

MERIDIAN, Miss. — The Pittsfield "Mass Maulers" were eliminated from the Amateur Softball Association girls' 16-and-under national softball tournament last night when they lost to the B.J. Bears of Owensboro, Ky. 4-3.

The loss capped a hectic day for the Maulers, who had beaten the Lady Raiders of Tennessee 10-1 earlier yesterday to stay alive in the tournament after a 3-2 loss to the top-ranked Oklahoma Renegades late Thursday night dropped them into the loser's bracket.

The start of the Maulers' game last night was delayed two hours by rain. The B.J. Bears had also eliminated the Maulers from the under-age 14 nationals in Ohio two years ago with almost exactly the same team.

"I don't think it was disappointing that it

ended so quick," Maulers' coach Joe McGovern. "What's disappointing is that what we did Thursday night set up what happened today."

"It's pretty ironic," McGovern said of the match-up with Owensboro. "It's the same team. They have the same players and everything."

The Maulers, who rode 24 hours by bus to play in the tournament, are expected to head back either tonight or tomorrow, McGovern said. He said the decision will be made during a meeting of parents and players today.

Bears 4, Maulers 3

The Maulers were forced to play catch-up right from the start when the Bears took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first with two unearned runs.

The Maulers cut the lead to 3-1 in the top of the second on Mary Beth Berube's RBI single, then pulled within 3-2 in the top of the third when Lisa Herrick singled in a run. But the Bears added another run in the bottom of the third to take a 4-2 lead.

In the sixth, the Maulers scored their final run on Marianna Eddy's run-scoring single.

Rebecca O'Connell and Kathleen Berube each had two hits for the Maulers. Leslie Ciepiela was the losing pitcher.

Maulers 10, Lady Raiders 1

Mary Beth Berube went 3-for-4 and Eddy, Ciepiela and Rebecca O'Connell each had two hits for the Maulers, who had 14 hits and blew the game open with a six-run third

MAULERS, continued on C3



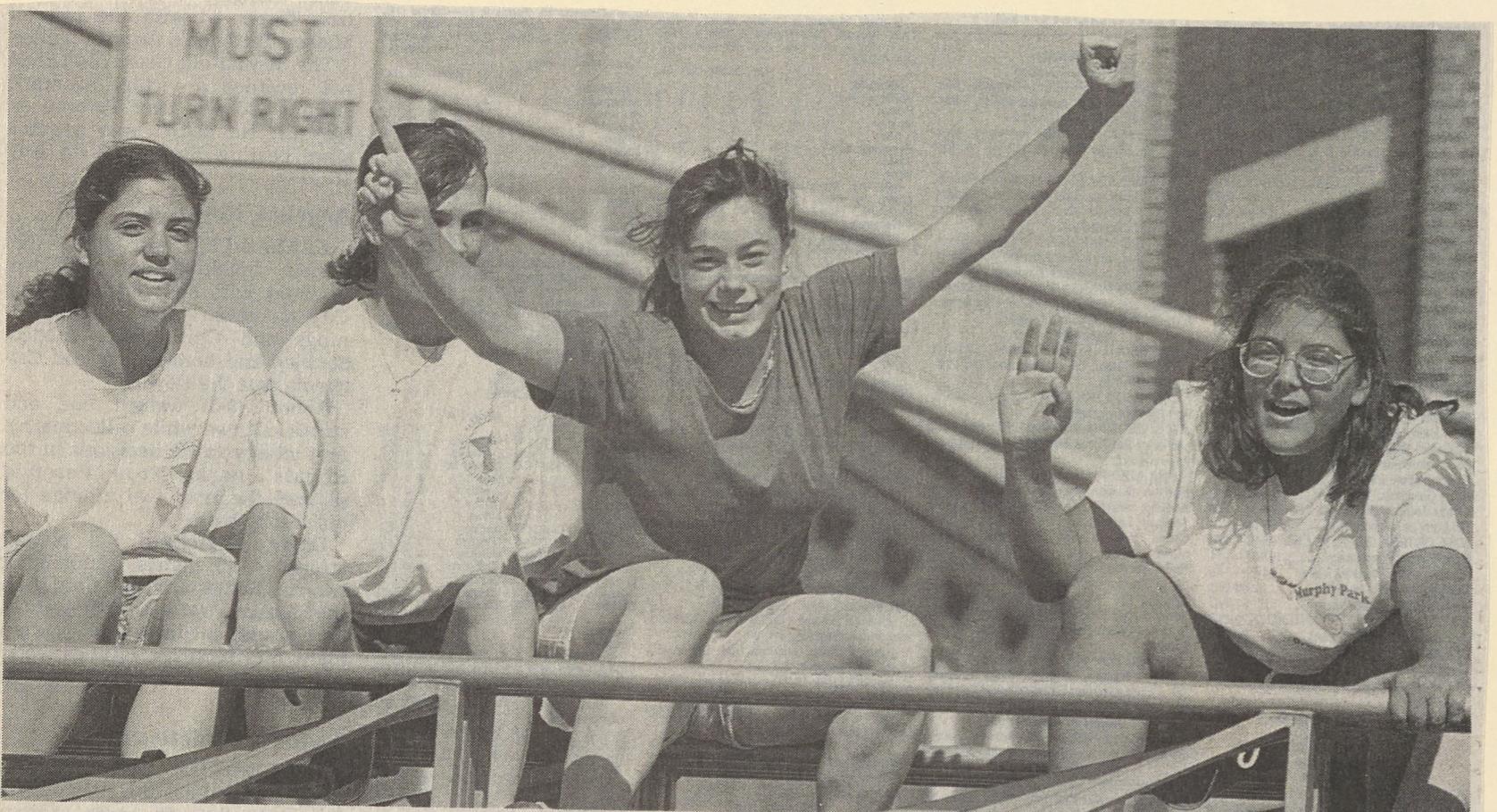
Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

New England champions

The Pittsfield Parks and Recreation Department age 16-and-under Pittsfield Maulers won the recent New England regional softball tournament and will play next in the nationals in August in Meridian, Miss. Members of the Maulers team include, from left, FRONT ROW — batboy Dan Righi, Missy Barnaby, Mary Beth Berube, Erinn Rice,

7/30/95

Marianna Eddy, Becky Ciullo, Angela Bianco and Kathleen Berube. BACK ROW — Kate Righi, Rachel O'Connell, Lisa Herrick, assistant coach Al Righi, head coach Joe McGovern, assistant coach Bob Berube, assistant coach Angie Martin, Jen Galvagni, Leslie Ciepiela and Becca O'Connell.



Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Off to Mississippi

8/9/95

Members of the Pittsfield 'Mass Maulers' softball team enjoy last night's ride atop a Pittsfield Fire Department ladder truck in a parade prior to their departure for the

national 16-and-under tournament in Meridian, Miss. The New England Regional champs are scheduled to compete through Sunday in the slow-pitch nationals.

■ Maulers from C1

8/12/95

inning.

The Maulers took a 1-0 lead in the first when Angela Bianco singled in Ciepiela. In the third, they scored their six runs on Erinn Rice's two-run double, Kate Righi's sacrifice fly, O'Connell's run-scoring single and bases-loaded walks to Kathleen Berube and Eddy.

Mary Beth Berube, Lisa Herrick and Eddy had run-scoring singles for the Maulers in the fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

Winning pitcher Ciepiela allowed three hits and walked one in a complete-game performance in melting heat that topped 100 degrees.

"I hope we never have to play a game under those conditions again," McGovern said. "There were times she had trouble gripping the ball because sweat was just running down her arm."

McGovern said the difference in the Maulers' play from Thursday to yesterday was in their offensive attack.

"We hit the ball today," he said. "Thursday night, the kids learned they are one of the top five teams here," since they had battled down to the wire against one of the country's top-rated teams.

Oklahoma 3, Maulers 2

On Thursday night, the Maulers

took a 1-0 lead in the first on Ciepiela's RBI single. Rachel O'Connell walked to begin the inning and advanced to second on a hit by Herrick. Ciepiela's single plated O'Connell, but Herrick was thrown out at the plate.

The Maulers took a 2-0 lead in the third. Eddy walked but was forced at second on Rachel O'Connell's grounder. Rice singled and then Herrick singled to plate O'Connell. Righi singled, but Rice was gunned down at home.

The Renegades cut the lead to 2-1 in the fifth on three straight hits and went ahead 3-2 in the sixth when two Mauler errors and three Renegade hits produced the go-ahead runs.

Ciepiela allowed 11 hits and no walks.

"We had a chance tonight," McGovern said after the game. "But we didn't win, and you feel like you missed walking through the door when it was open. We came out strong, and they [Oklahoma] didn't play well. But we made a couple of mistakes, and you can't do that down here."

NOTES: McGovern said The North Meridian Star, a Mississippi newspaper, planned to run a Sunday feature story on the Maulers titled, "The Little Team From New England That Can."

He said the paper picked the Maulers to write about because they traveled farther than any of the tournament's other 50 teams. The Maulers' ability was also an asset.

"They like the way we play," McGovern said.

Friends of Wild Acres need help as they plan for spring

Think spring" may be a good antidote to offer those who dread the possibility of a harsh winter with sub-zero temperatures and knee-high snowfalls, but for Bernie Goclawski, president of the Friends of Wild Acres, it's an absolute necessity.

The start of a new year signals Goclawski to start thinking about the spring fishing derbies at Wild Acres and raising the money to finance them. You can't have derbies without stocked trout, and they're costly — about \$5,000 annually the past two years.

"Unfortunately, we didn't collect as many dollars last year as we had anticipated," Goclawski said. "We need more friends — not only individuals, but civic, fraternal and other organizations which appreciate what these derbies mean to our children, seniors and handicapped persons."

Friends of Wild Acres is a nonprofit organization that was started in 1983 when Proposition 2½ forced an end to



Ted Giddings

Our Berkshires

ation and volunteers, who are always welcome.

Organizations and individuals who wish to make donations should send them to Friends of Wild Acres, P.O. Box 1542, Pittsfield 01202. The IRS tax-exemption number is 2492600. You may call 800-462-8244 for GE matching funds.

city funding and threatened cancellation of the derbies. The late Franklin R. Controy, chairman of the city's Conservation Commission, solicited friends and organizations for donations, assuring continuance of the popular derbies. Formation of the Friends followed, with Goclawski as president, and on March 20, 1984, tax-exempt status was granted by the Internal Revenue Service.

Other officers are David L. Dickhaus, treasurer, and Richard D. Petruzzella, secretary. They and the board of directors conduct the derbies with the help of the city's Department of Parks and Recre-



Look what I got!

Four-year-old Jessica Connors of Pittsfield displays the 14-inch trout she pulled out of the pond at Wild Acres during

yesterday's children's fishing derby. Her brother, Michael, 8, tries his luck at left.

5/18/95

5/18/95

311 boys, girls fish in derby

By Theodore Giddings
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Despite cold and windy weather, 311 youngsters — 218 boys and 93 girls — reeled in 312 trout in the annual fishing derby yesterday and Saturday at Wild Acres Pond off Barker Road. The event is sponsored jointly by the Friends of Wild Acres, which raises funds to buy the fish and prizes, and the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

Winners of fishing tackle for catching tagged trout and their ages were Kirk Johnston, 8; Steven Hillard, 10; Ashley Turner, 8; Jessica Shaw, 10; Melissa Sokolowski, 8; Jason Newton, 6; Conner Ferris, 10; Andrew Christman, 8; Hillary Kirchner, 6; and Erin Peaslee, 8.

Bernard J. Goclawski, Friends' president, announced that for the first time in several years prizes and gift certificates will be awarded to those who catch the first tagged trout at the derby for seniors tomorrow from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Wild Acres. Awards are being provided by Eastside Pizza, Bonanza Restaurant and Tracy W. Griffin Jr. of Lee.

5/18/95

5-11-95 Senior fishing derby extended for two days

PITTSFIELD — The fishing derby for seniors 60 and up held at Wild Acres pond off South Mountain Road for the past two days has been extended through today and tomorrow.

Bernard J. Goclawski, president of the Friends of Wild Acres, said hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the daily bag limit is three trout.



Dewey Playground looks desolate these days — but a \$20,000 grant and volunteer effort will soon transform the small neighborhood park.

Plans advance for Dewey upgrade

The parks commission on Monday approved plans for a \$20,000 upgrade of Dewey Playground.

Volunteers will erect a new play structure at the small park on June 24 as the centerpiece of a federally funded site enhancement.

The upgrade, designed by the city's community development office in conjunction with several park neighbors, began this week with the installation of a new halogen lamp.

"I was psyched tonight when I saw that on," said Fonda Furey, one of the neighbors who worked on the project.

"It's about time," agreed John Marchesi, city parks & recreation director. "All this has been long over due there."

According to Bob Mellace of the community development department, about half the \$19,430 budget is for the purchase and installation of the play structure, with the rest funding other site improvements.

A smaller version of the hands-on structures placed in recent years at the Kids Common and Conte Community School, the Dewey play area is intended to bring new life to a largely ignored park.

"We've been working closely with the neighborhood group, acknowledging that this is a smaller park

primarily serving a neighborhood," said Mellace. "The installation of the playground will be by volunteers headed by Fonda and [city councilor] Joe Guzzo."

The project involves removing several boulders, paving a walkway and adding a picnic table, two benches and a shade tree. In addition, a fence illegally removed by a former resident is being replaced.

Parks commissioners praised the effort, particularly noting the input of Furey and other Dewey/Danforth avenue area residents.

Furey asked if the parks department could supply paint so old equipment can get a fresh coat to match the brightly colored new fixtures.

While that request was easily addressed by Marchesi, Furey's desire to rename the park after a neighborhood resident generated debate.

"There has been a policy that parks won't be named for anyone but a dead parks commissioner," said Marchesi.

Current commissioners expressed surprise at that rule. Terming it the "dead commissioner rule," Bob Smith questioned its suitability. "In my opinion, if there is enough neighborhood interest it's something we should consider," Smith said of renaming the park.

Special needs camp applications are available

PITTSFIELD — Applications for the Highland School special needs camp will be available June 12 through 16 at Springside House on North Street.

The camp, which is operated by the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, will run this year from July 3 through 28 at Highland School, said Michael Connor, director.

6/12/95

Neighbors seek to rename Dewey park

The parks commission will hold a public hearing July 10 to consider whether to rename the Dewey playground in honor of longtime school crossing guard Carrie Bak.

At Monday's commission meeting, a group of West Side neighbors submitted a petition signed by 84 people supporting the change.

Fonda Furey said the playground is named after the street that abuts it rather than in honor of any person. Several other neighbors spoke in support of naming the park after Bak, who worked as a crossing guard in the West Side for more than 30 years. Bak still lives near the playground.

Commissioners told the group that they are not necessarily opposed to the change but want to carefully consider the impact before making a decision. The request had been tabled at an earlier meeting.

Volunteers will refurbish the playground on June 24. A new light has already been installed. New equipment and fresh paint will be added. The \$20,000 project is funded through the city's federally allocated community development budget.

6/15/95



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

4/19/95

Uncommon path
Angel Ponce, 4, of Pittsfield chose to climb up the down chute on play equipment at the Kids' Common playground on First Street on Monday.



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

4-19-95

Dave Fields of Pittsfield High delivers a pitch to a Longmeadow batter yesterday at Clapp Park. Fields struck out 14 in a 1-0 victory.

6/10/95

Special needs camp applications available

PITTSFIELD — Applications for the Highland School special needs camp will be available beginning Monday at Springside House on North Street.

The camp, operated by the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, will run from July 3 through 28 at Highland School, said Michael Connor, director.

Dewey project under way

PITTSFIELD — Ground was broken yesterday at Dewey Park, where the city has begun \$22,000 worth of improvements to the play area.

Ward 7 City Councilor Joseph O. Guzzo said the improvements will include a new play area that will be assembled Saturday with volunteers from the neighborhood. The project will start at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Also slated for the park are new lighting, picnic tables, a bench or two, some shade trees and a sidewalk so that the new play area will be accessible to those in wheelchairs, Guzzo said.

"This has been tailored to what those in the neighborhood wanted," Guzzo said. "When we met on this project, the neighbors said they wanted a play area that was geared toward smaller kids, so that's what we did."

Guzzo said the Department of Community Development is financing the project.

6/12/95

Park's new moniker will honor Carrie Bak

The park commission on Monday unanimously approved renaming Dewey Park as Carrie Bak Children's Park.

Bak, a longtime crossing guard in the Dewey-Madison Avenue area, lives near the park. With funding from the city's community development office, neighbors recently undertook a \$20,000 rehabilitation and clean-up of the small park.

"I just feel a new park — a new name," said Fonda Furey. "Carrie has been in the neighborhood for 40 years."

Furey and other neighborhood residents first approached the commission with the name change request several months ago. The board held a formal hearing Monday to gather input.

No one spoke against the change at Monday's session, though proponents noted some opposition. They said criticism emanated from parents whose children may have had run-ins with the crossing guard years ago.

"Initially I was a little leery of opening a Pandora's Box," commission member Cliff Nilan said of the renaming request, "but I've learned that it was partly because of her that this park is there."

7/13/95

Bak

Good neighbor

Carrie Bach guided children to safety for nearly 30 years

By Anthony Fyden

Carrie Bach leads a quiet life now, no longer making the trek to the corner of West Union and Onota streets three times a day to guide school children safely across the street.

In fact, it has been nearly fifteen years since she retired from her job as a crossing guard.

But Bach still holds a place in the hearts of neighbors, some of whom remember her firm hand grabbing them by the arm when they became a little too bold near traffic.

The Pittsfield Gazette

M.V.P.

Most Valuable Pittsfielders

"I see a lot of the kids I crossed in the store," Bach says. "They say 'hello' Mrs. Bach, don't you remember me? I say to them 'no, your face looks familiar but tell me your name'."

Bach held the crossing guard job for nearly thirty years and proudly notes that no children were ever hit on her watch. "Nobody ever got hurt," she said. "Not one child."

"Lots of times I held them by the arm," she recalls, smiling. "They would tell me they were going to tell their mother and I'd say 'that'll be just fine with me'."

Many mothers appreciated the fact that Bach kept a watchful eye on their children. "If any of your kids were acting up you heard about it," said Barbara Hanger, a Dewey Avenue resident. "She loved those kids but she would be firm with them when she had to — it was tough love. I felt that my children were very safe when Mrs. Bach was on that corner."

Hanger misses the days when neighbors knew children's names and felt it was everyone's job to look after children. "Too many people today turn their heads," she said. "Mrs. Bach was not a head turner — She's like your next door aunt."

Bach took her duties seriously, often staying on her corner extra time to make sure all the kids had made it safely across. "I would stay out there as long as I saw any kids around," she said. "I would say 'if I leave and that kid gets hit — then what?'"

Bach's first crossing post was on the corner of Robbins Avenue and Linden Street crossing children to and from the former Tucker School. "I was out there in every kind of weather," she said. "If it rained, I got wet."

"Some of my fondest memories of Tucker School were of Mrs. Bach," said Hanger's daughter Robin Chambers.

"There was a little store right across the street and kids would try to cross over there to get candy — the older kids would try to buy cigarettes," Chambers recalled. "Mrs. Bach would come after you — sometimes she'd come right inside the store."

"Mrs. Bach was the kind of woman that a curious kid would say they didn't like, but you really did like her — she was always there and you knew she really cared about you."

Bach moved to Pittsfield from Indian Orchard after marrying the late William T. Bach. The couple met at a Polish picnic, she says.

They moved into the Dewey Avenue home where she still lives. Over the years, the couple worked to make the house into a home, virtually rebuilding it. "My husband could do anything — he was a cabinet maker and a carpenter — everything in here he did," Bach said pointing out

cabinetry and wood work in her home.

The couple's son Tom, now lives with his family in Tennessee.

She speaks with pride about her neighborhood and the people who live there. "This is a neighborhood of families," she said. "Most people own their homes, there's not as many renters, so people stay for a long time and raise their families. Some people complain about the kids but I think they're all right — they're good kids, most of them."

Bach is excited about plans to refurbish Dewey Playground, a small park close to her house. "We've been after them to fix the park for a good five years," she said. "There are a lot more kids here the last four or five years."

On June 24 a group of community volunteers will work on the park, installing new equipment, cleaning the area and performing landscaping chores. The project will be funded by a grant from the city's office of community development.

Some neighborhood residents have suggested that the park be named after Bach. "She's like a mother or a grandmother to a lot of the kids who grew up here," said Marianne Northrup. "She means a lot to all of the neighborhood."

Hanger says she would love to see the park named for Bach. "What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful



Carrie Bach spent three decades making sure children in her neighborhood crossed streets safely. Now some of those children have grown up — and want to name a playground in her honor.

woman," she said.

Bach is much more concerned with seeing children playing in the park than with what it is called. "I think it's very nice that they want to do that," she said. "But they don't have to — some people might object."

Bach is not able to go out very

much during the winter months and is looking forward to warmer weather. During quiet times she enjoys her hobby of crocheting. "I like to sit out on my porch and see the kids run around," she said. "When it gets nice I'll be able to take a walk." She enjoys reminiscing about her

days as a crossing guard. A photo album on her table shows several pictures of her directing children across the street. One shows her with a hand on the shoulder of a child who tried to hurry across. "Those were wonderful, wonderful times," she said. "I really enjoyed it."

Public hearing to air request changing name of Dewey Park

By Gae Elfenbein

Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Park Commission will hold a public hearing Monday, July 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Conte Community School on a request from West Side residents to change the name of Dewey Park.

At the board's meeting Monday night, Fonda Furey of Madison Avenue presented a petition signed by 85 residents who would like the park named after Carrie Bach, a popular, longtime crossing guard.

Furey first proposed the change at a previous meeting but was asked to return with more information and a show of support.

She said she learned that Dewey Avenue was named after Adm. George Dewey in 1932 and that the park was named Dewey Park in 1973. Before that, the area had no special name that she could find, she said.

Although she complied with the

board's wish, the commissioners decided that changing the name of a park was an important step that warranted a more public airing.

"Anything we do sets a precedent," said Chairman Anthony G. Massimiano. "This is a fairly significant issue."

"It's a matter of policy," he said, noting that the city has 20 or more parks and that others might want their names changed to honor someone.

Commissioner Clifford J. Nilan, who had not been present when Furey first approached the commission, agreed, recalling that when the names of two parks were changed, "it raised holy heck."

Although acknowledging that "it's a good cause — it may be a good thing to do," he said he thinks the commission should review it.

Richard A. Scapin also agreed, telling Furey and a small group of supporters, "We should cover all the bases. It might take a little

longer, but our hearts are with you."

In other business, the commission learned from Maria Caccavillo that she will be working with 55 children this summer on a project at Pitt Park that will involve painting a mural on the band shell featuring local civil rights activists.

The children will design and execute the mural over a six-week period, working with a panel of volunteer artists, she said.

When pressed by the commissioners, Caccavillo said she had asked Daniel M. O'Connell, director of Berkshire Artisans, if he wanted to be involved, but "he wants \$25,000 to do it," she said. "We have volunteers to do it."

The board also gave permission to Robert Burke of Nynex to temporarily place two telephone poles in Pitt Park during the rebuilding of the Columbus Avenue bridge, expected to take place this summer.

Neighbors reclaim bits of Pittsfield

Gaz 194

By Donna B. Mattoon

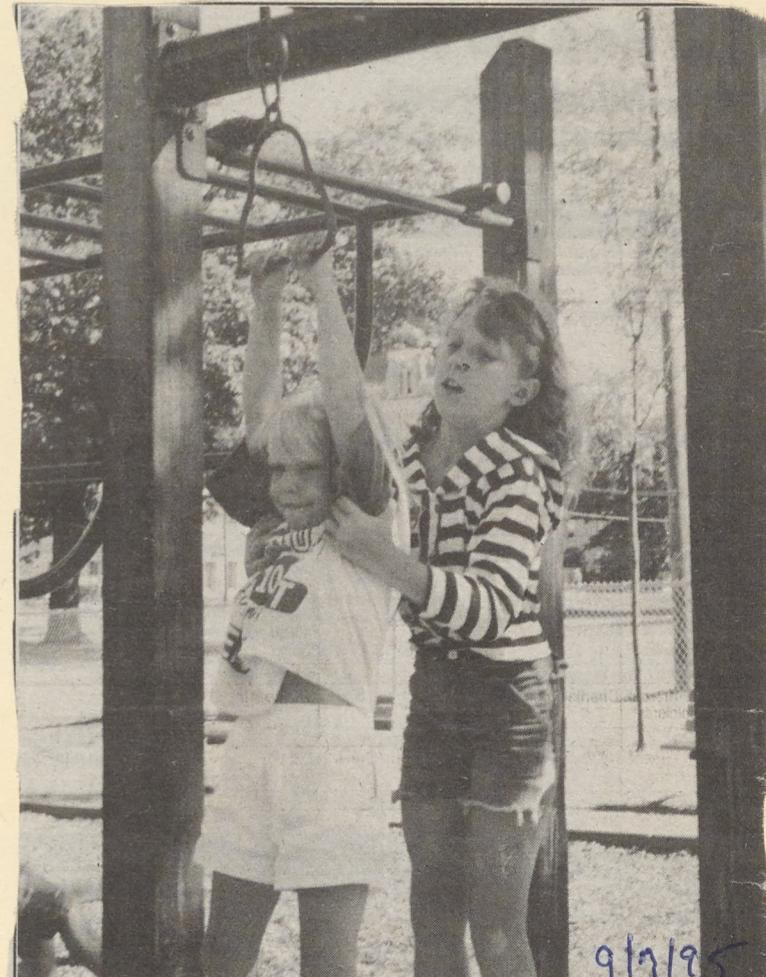
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Last evening, no fewer than 22 children were romping all over Osceola Park. Older kids were shooting the hoop; the younger ones were squealing as they played on the slides and swings. Parents chatted in the background, telling the children they had a few more minutes till it was time for supper.

Six weeks ago, none of them were there. Osceola Park, located off outer West Housatonic Street, was a casualty of the Parks Department's diminished resources. It had little equipment, and what it had was broken. Steel poles for the basketball hoops were heaved right out of the concrete, and there were no baskets. The court itself had embarrassing graffiti written on it.

Trees and brush from the surrounding area were growing into the park, and there was enough broken glass and bottles to fill the bed of a large dump truck. "It was here, but it wasn't a park," said Vincent Barbarotta, a neighbor and father of two little children. "We live here; our children are here. We wanted more than this."

And so Barbarotta and two other fathers set out to reclaim Osceola.



Jessica McAuley helped her sister, Jill, at the Common playground this past week.

Nominate an MVP

GAZETTE MVP • P.O. BOX 2236
PITTSFIELD, MA 01202

Determined crew conquers in playground installation

By Lynne A. Daley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Putting together a playground isn't child's play.

Just ask the small group of volunteers who turned up yesterday at Dewey Park to apply the crowning touches to their neighborhood overhaul only to encounter one problem after another.

But a few holes dug in the wrong places and a shortage of some key parts were small potatoes to a group of determined residents who already had reclaimed their neighborhood from drug dealers.

Unable to wrap up the work yesterday because of the miscues, they vowed to return today to finish. If they can't, the work will be hired out to Petrica Construction Co., vowed a sweaty Robert S. Mellace of the city's Department of Community Development.

The playground, complete with a picnic table, benches, sidewalks, fences and trees, will be the most apparent sign to outsiders that the neighborhood once again belongs to its residents.

Until recently an eyesore, the abandoned park was overgrown, its swing frames empty.

"I have grandchildren," said Marianne Northrup. "There's no place for them to go. My kids grew up in this park."

Ignored too long

The group, led by Fonda Furey, Carla Prendergast, Northrup and a few others, petitioned the Parks Commission, the city's Department of Community Development and Ward 7 City Councilor

Joseph O. Guzzo.

"The neighborhood made my job easier," said Guzzo, as he hoisted some equipment into place. "This park has been ignored too long."

Mellace said the Dewey improvements cost about \$15,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds, with about \$8,000 or \$9,000 going for the play equipment itself.

Yesterday's effort followed fast on the heels of a similar construction project last weekend at Morningside Community School. There, led by Principal Paula Virgilio and Morningside Council Chairman Sharon Mongeon, volunteers — including inmates from the neighboring Berkshire County House of Correction — erected \$25,000 worth of equipment, also funded through block grant money.

That equipment, placed prominently in the schoolyard, was teeming with children yesterday. However, Mellace sighed, there were problems with the installation there, too, after the equipment was late in arriving, holes again were dug in the wrong places, the perimeter was laid out incorrectly and some pieces were the wrong colors.

But the kids playing there yesterday were oblivious to those mishaps. Around them, perhaps taking a lesson from the Dewey Avenue success story, hustled Morningside residents who have organized their own, Dewey-style neighborhood renewal project. They were raking debris, hauling garbage and doing the general

PLAYGROUND, continued on B4



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Among those installing the Dewey Park playground equipment yesterday were, left to right, Rick Henke of the playground equipment company, Steve Prendergast and Randy Northrup.

6/25/95

■ Playground from B1

spruce-up work that reflects a neighborhood whose residents are staking a claim to their turf.

Wishing other neighborhoods good luck, Police Officer Mark Bushey said the Dewey Avenue crowd is a tough act to follow in the neighborhood reclamation department. Bushey, on hand at yesterday's playground raising — in spite of a mashed finger — offered support along with fellow officer Kim Bertelli-Supranowicz.

The Dewey Avenue crowd is a tough act to follow in the neighborhood reclamation department.

Normally, said Bushey, a neighborhood does draw together to fight a common enemy, such as the drug dealers who peddled their wares along Dewey Avenue. But after the problem is cleaned up, he said, interest drops off.

But these neighbors kept it together, Bushey said, their Neighborhood Watch group constantly calling police when anything was amiss, even ordering "Drug Free Zone" signs for the streets.

They did fun things, too, such as the National Night Out, a neighborhood picnic, even Christmas caroling in the winter, Furey said.

"It's easy to rally when there's a problem," Bushey said. "It's hard to keep together afterward."

But, he said, that togetherness is imperative.

"If a neighborhood is in a state of deterioration and you allow it to continue," he said, "you're just inviting trouble."

6/25/95



Photos by Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

While volunteers struggled with some installation difficulties, Nathan Pompi, 9, took an early look at some of the new equipment. He's emerging from what will become a slide.



Stephen Prendergast, 9, painted the existing jungle gym at the rejuvenated Dewey Park yesterday.

LSE OF PITTSFIELD



Rick Scapin and Joe Guzzo helped Carrie Bak cut the ribbon Friday at a neighborhood ceremony renaming the playground off Dewey Avenue in her honor. Neighbors spearheaded the effort to upgrade the park and rename it after Bak, a longtime resident and former crossing guard.

"This is something we don't usually do," said Scapin, chairman of the park commission. "But the neighbors explained that renaming this playground was well-deserved."

Relatives from out-of-town joined Bak at the ceremony. The honoree was visibly moved by the event. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart," she said.

New mural at Pitt Park to be dedicated Sunday

PITTSFIELD — The Christian Center will dedicate the new mural at Pitt Park during a ceremony Sunday beginning at 2.

Professional local artists Caroline Kelly and Eric Drury created the original design for the Enrichment Learning Program. It features notable African-Americans including former Massachusetts Sen. Edward Brooke, civil rights leader W.E.B. Du Bois, the Rev. Samuel Harrison, pastor of Pittsfield's Second Congregational Church during the Civil War; Margaret Hart of Williamstown, the first African-American schoolteacher in Pittsfield, and Frank T. Walker of Pittsfield, a leader of the NAACP during the 1960s.

The artists, while working on the mural, encouraged children in the Enrichment Learning Program to participate in all aspects of mural painting. The arts are a main focus in the program and are used in conjunction with remedial studies to stimulate students' curiosity for learning.

The Christian Center will dedicate the mural to all the children in the community and to the future generations who will come to the park, according to a release from the Christian Center.

The community is invited to the ceremony, at which the Rev. Willard Durant, Christian Center director; his wife, Rosemary Durant; Maria Caccavillo, and Judi Forrest will officiate. One may call 443-2828 for more information.

10/13/95



Carolyn 'Carrie' Bak
'I loved the kids'

■ Park from B1

terday that the board was initially hesitant about renaming the park.

"We were skeptical, because we don't do it that often," he said. "But we eventually voted unanimously in favor of it. We thought it was a great idea because she deserves it. It was a good gesture for the city."

The new park features a playground with colorful fixtures and lights.

Colleen Adams, who now lives on Austin Street and once resided on Dewey Avenue, said yesterday

that Bak was like a grandmother to her daughter.

"You couldn't ask for a finer woman," said Adams, who now takes care of Bak. "I just love her to pieces."

Born in Indian Orchard, Bak moved to her home on Dewey Avenue in the 1940s when she married her husband, the late William Bak, a carpenter and cabinetmaker.

Worked out well

Bak said she decided to become a crossing guard to make some money to make some repairs on her house.

"I wanted to be home when my son came home from school, so I took the job," she said.

Her first assignment was at the corner of Linden and Onota streets, the location of the former Tucker School, and then she moved to the corner of Onota and Union streets. She retired from the post in 1983.

And no matter what the weather, rain or shine, blistering heat or frigid cold, Bak always made it out to shepherd the children.

"Sometimes the wind blew 50 miles an hour and it was 50 degrees below zero," Bak said. "Winters were tough."

Tuesday, September 5, 1995

A park is renamed to honor legendary city crossing guard

By Lisi de Bourbon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Public parks in this city are seldom named to honor people during their lifetimes.

But one park, located at the corner of Dewey and Danforth avenues, is an exception to that rule.

The city on Friday officially renamed the recently renovated park, formerly known as Dewey Avenue Park, after one of its most famous crossing guards, 83-year-old Carolyn "Carrie" Bak. From now on it's Carrie Bak Children's Park.

For 31 years, Bak, a longtime Dewey Avenue resident, safely guided thousands of children across busy city intersections to the former Bartlett and Tucker schools and what is now the Conte Community School.

"I used to cross 400 or 500 kids a day," Bak said during an interview at her home. "I used to love to get out, and I loved the kids."

So much so that Bak regularly carried extra Kleenex for children with runny noses and safety pins to fasten their open coats.

The straight and narrow

Bak said she even occasionally supplied children who had lost their lunch money with a quarter so they wouldn't starve until dismissal time.

And according to some neighbors, Bak made sure that her wards stayed on the straight and narrow and out of trouble.

"She was just one of those people who was stern but loving," said Barbara Hanger of Dewey Avenue. "If kids messed up or screwed up or gave her any lip, she would call their parents."

Bak led three of Hanger's children across the intersection of

Onota and Union streets to Conte, once known as the West Side Community School.

Hanger recalled that Bak once laced into her son Noel, now an actor, after he strayed from the crosswalk and wandered toward the Housatonic River.

"She was like an aunt to all the children," Hanger said. "I just love her."

The change of the park's name was sought by a group of West Side residents led by Fonda Furey of Madison Avenue, who presented the Parks Commission this June with a petition signed by 85 neighbors.

Furey has said that Dewey Avenue was named after Admiral George Dewey in 1932 and that the park took the same name when it opened in 1973.

Richard A. Scapin, chairman of the Parks Commission, said yes-

PARK, continued on B2

9/5/95

Pittsfield Little League registration

Registration for the Pittsfield Little League will take place Saturday from 9 to noon and Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. North Little League registration will take place on those two days at the Peck's Road firehouse; South League, Holmes Road firehouse; and West League, West Housatonic Street firehouse.

3/23/95

North Little League sets tryouts

The North Little League will be holding tryouts for the 1995 season Saturday and Sunday at the Brown Street field on Springside Avenue. Any child who lives in the area of North Street and will be 9 years old by Aug. 1 and not 13 until after Aug. 1 is eligible to try out.

Tryouts for 9-year-olds take place Saturday at 10 a.m., and Sunday at noon. Ten-year-olds try out Saturday at 12:30 and Sunday at 1:30.

Tryouts for 11- and 12-year-olds take place Saturday at 2 and Sunday at 3.

Registration will be conducted at the field a half-hour prior to the tryouts. All candidates must have a parent with them and bring a birth certificate to register.

For more information, one should call North player agent Will Losaw at 499-8786.

3/30/95

West Little League sets tryouts

The Pittsfield West Little League has scheduled tryouts Saturday and Sunday indoors at the Taconic High School gym. Both days, tryouts will be 9-10 a.m. for players age 9, 10:15-11:15 for players age 10 and starting at 11:30 for ages 11 and 12.

Registration will be accepted both days. Players must bring a proof of birthdate.

4-6-95

Little League age 9-10 tourney opens Saturday

PITTSFIELD — Four games on Saturday will kick off the annual Berkshire County Jimmy Fund age 9-10 Little League baseball tournament, which will be hosted by the Pittsfield West at Clapp Park.

Fourteen teams from throughout the county will take part in the single-elimination tournament. This year, however, for the first time, there will be a consolation round for first-game losers. Consolation games are scheduled July 28 and 30, weather permitting. Also this year, there will be a 12-run mercy rule.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Jimmy Fund, which pays for children's cancer research and treatment. Teams that raise at least \$250 in donations and pledges will be treated to tickets to a Pittsfield Mets game Aug. 26. In past years, the tournament has raised more than \$30,000 for the Jimmy Fund.

Saturday's opening games feature the Pittsfield West blue team vs. Berkshire Hills at 10 a.m., Lanesboro vs. Dalton-Hinsdale at noon, Pittsfield South gray vs. Cheshire at 2 and the Pittsfield West gray team vs. Adams at 4.

Other teams participating are Pittsfield South red, Pittsfield North, North Adams, Williamstown and Great Barrington.

Games continue through the championship game Aug. 1. Weeknight games are at 5:30, Saturday programs start at 10 a.m. and Sunday doubleheaders at noon.

7/19/95

Storm halts Little League

PITTSFIELD — Yesterday morning's storm forced postponement of two Berkshire County Little League baseball tournament doubleheaders at Pittsfield North and Pittsfield South fields.

Yesterday's games at North, featuring Cheshire vs. Lee followed by North Adams vs. Pittsfield North, and the games at South, featuring Berkshire Hills vs. Lenox at 10:30 followed by Williamstown vs. Pittsfield South, were rescheduled for today.

All other tournament games were pushed back one day, and since Thursday was scheduled to be an open date, the tournament will be back on schedule for Friday's championship game, barring further weather problems, according to tournament director Don Gleason of Pittsfield.

Although the weather turned sunny by noon yesterday, Gleason said his call was dictated by the morning weather conditions, since teams were traveling

from out of town.

"The weather report said the storm watch was in effect until 1 p.m., and I heard that Route 7 was blocked north of Pittsfield, so I had to make a judgment," Gleason said. "I couldn't ask people to travel under those conditions. It's always better to live, and play another day."

Pittsfield teams remain unbeaten in tournament

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Pittsfield South remained unbeaten in the Berkshire County Little League (District 1) tournament yesterday, but needed a dramatic three-run rally in the final inning to stay spotless.

South scored three runs in the home sixth to punctuate an 8-7 win over Williamstown in a winner's bracket game at the Pittsfield South field. Dom Dastoli's RBI single proved to be the game-winner.

Also at the South field, Lenox triumphed over Berkshire Hills 17-8 in a loser's bracket contest. The loss eliminated Berkshire Hills from the double-elimination tournament.

At the Pittsfield North field, a pair of 4-3 games held forth. Lee defeated Cheshire in the loser's bracket contest while Pittsfield North edged North Adams in a winner's bracket game.

Pittsfield South games

Pittsfield South used two big innings to pull out the victory. They scored five runs in the third to take a 5-1 lead, and after falling behind 7-5 scored the three runs in the sixth to win the game.

A fielder's choice grounder by Derek Cece gave Williamstown a 1-0 lead in the second. In the third, Matt Mazzer had a two-run double and Jeff LeDuc an RBI single to highlight the five-run South rally. A run on an error and another RBI single by Cece helped trim the South lead to 5-3 in the fourth.

Williamstown then plated four runs in the fifth to take a 7-5 lead. Maceo Brown's two-run single was the big hit in the rally.

The South rally in the sixth began with a Dan Gross double and a walk to Peter Zancanato. A two-run throwing error on a bunt by Josh Shepard tied the score. Mazzer singled Shepard to third and Dastoli singled to score Shepard.

Dastoli, LeDuc and Mazzer had

Little League 7/17/95

two hits each for South, with Mazzer getting the pitching win in relief of starter LeDuc and reliever Shepard. Ron Kelly had two hits for Williamstown, which received a complete game from Aaron Herr.

Lenox, meanwhile, had too much firepower for Berkshire Hills.

Sean McKenny had three hits and two RBIs for Lenox, which had two hits and three RBIs from Shaun Stanton.

Bob Marini led Berkshire with two hits and two RBIs. Spencer Christie and Jason Palardy each had two hits and one RBI.

Lee winning pitcher Tom Keenan struck out nine and allowed five hits in outdueling Cheshire's Matt Larabee, who allowed three hits and struck out two.

Lee took a 1-0 lead in the third on a home run by Joey Devineau and bumped the lead to 2-0 in the fourth when a run scored on an error. Cheshire also scored on an error in the home fourth to trim the lead to 2-1.

Both teams scored two runs in a wild seventh. Lee took a 4-1 lead on a two-run single by Bhavik Jariwala while Cheshire tried to rally in its last at-bat on Brent Malcolm's two-run single. Jeff Savary led Cheshire with two hits.

Pittsfield North, meanwhile, scored a run in the second on an error to take a 1-0 lead. Both teams then staged three-run rallies. North Adams did its damage in the home third to take a 3-1 lead when starting pitcher Matt Rodovick drilled a three-run home run. North, however, matched North Adams when Jeff Quetti also connected for a three-run home run to give his team the 4-3 lead.

Winning pitcher Ryan Elser struck out 11 and walked one while Rodovick struck out seven and did not allow a walk.

N. Adams scores 5 runs in 10th to defeat South

Little League 7/21/95

PITTSFIELD — North Adams advanced into the finals of the Berkshire County Little League tournament with a wild 9-4 triumph over defending champion Pittsfield South yesterday at the Pittsfield South field at Deming Field. The thriller went 10 innings, with North Adams scoring five runs in the visitors' 10th to highlight the victory. Trailing 4-2, South tied the game in the home sixth with a pair of runs.

Three scoreless innings

The teams then battled for three scoreless innings before North Adams broke through in the 10th.

Rodovick, Stone and Joel Demarco each had hits to load the bases. Cooper then broke the deadlock with an RBI single. Borowski walked with the bases loaded while Matt Lamb was hit with a pitch with the bases juiced to force home another run. Two more runs scored on an error.

Title game today

That sets up today's championship game scheduled for Deming at 5:30 between unbeaten Pittsfield North and North Adams. Should North Adams win today that would force a second game to be played on Sunday at 5:30 at the Pittsfield North field. The tournament is being played in a double-elimination format.

Matt Rodovick hurled nine innings for North Adams, striking out 13 and walking only one. Rodovick gave up four runs and 10 hits. Tournament rules prohibited Rodovick from pitching more than nine frames, but reliever Brian Borowski had a pretty quiet 10th, striking out two and allowing just one hit.

Craig LeDuc pitched the first five innings for South while Josh Shepard pitched the final five frames.

The South took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning. Dan Gross doubled and scored on Matt Mazzer's double. Dom Dastoli's single then plated Mazzer with the second run.

North Adams, however, bounced back with three runs in the fourth and a single run in the fifth. In the fourth, Mark Gazaille had an RBI single and Marcel Potvin a two-run single. J.D. Stone and John Cooper also had hits in the inning.

Borowski then drilled a solo home run in the fifth to give North Adams a 4-2 lead.

Little League sets board of directors' meeting

The Pittsfield Little League Board of Directors will hold a meeting on Monday, December 11 at the Springside House, 874 North Street, beginning at 7 p.m.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Pittsfield Little League Board of Directors should attend this meeting.

11/30/95

The Berkshire Eagle, Thursday, July 20, 1995 — C3

Pittsfield North reaches title game

Little League

PITTSFIELD — Jeff Quetti pitched five innings of quality relief, belted a home run and drove in two runs last night to lift Pittsfield North into the championship game of the Berkshire County Little League tournament with a 4-2 win over Pittsfield South.

South will now have to come out of the loser's bracket if it hopes to retain its county title and move on to the district playoffs. South will play the loser's bracket final today against North Adams, which defeated Williamstown 4-3 last night.

The South-North Adams game today is at 5:30 at Pittsfield North, with the winner earning a date against North in the final tomorrow at 5:30 at Pittsfield South's home field at Deming Park. If the loser's bracket team wins tomorrow, a winner-take-all final will be played at Pittsfield North.

North 4, South 2

When North starting pitcher Dave Galvagni was spiked in the shoulder making a play at home plate in the first inning, the pitching call went to Quetti. He responded by holding South to four hits and one run over the final five innings, striking out five.

At the plate, Quetti was in the middle of everything for the North. He belted a homer over the left field fence to make it 1-0 in the first inning, hit a sacrifice fly to cap a two-run third and singled in the fifth, when North scored its final run.

In the third, Josh McHugh singled and score on an error before

pitch. Quetti had two of North's seven hits off Kyle Garvey, who struck out five. Dastoli had a pair of doubles for South.

N. Adams 4, Williamstown 3

At Deming, North Adams built a 4-1 lead and survived a two-run uprising in the last inning in Williamstown.

North Adams went up 1-0 in the first when Matt Lamb walked and scored on a double by Dom Dastoli. Dastoli later tried to score on a passed ball, but was tagged out at home on the play that injured Galvagni.

South's other run came in the fourth, when Dastoli was hit by a pitch, advanced on a single by Craig LeDuc and scored on a wild

pitch.

North Adams went up 3-1 with two in the third, when Mark Gaz-

aille singled and scored on a bunt by John Cooper, and Marcel Potvin was hit by a pitch and scored on a single by Lamb. North Adams scored a run it would later need in the top of the sixth, when Sam Braman and pinch hitter Jeff Poplaski doubled.

In the Williamstown sixth, Trevor Manning singled, Aaron Mensch walked and Derek Cece hit an infield single, loading the bases. Ronald Kelly then drilled a two-run single before reliever Matt Rodovick retired the last batter to end the threat.

Stone went the first 5 1/3 innings to get the win. Aaron Herr took the loss.

South LL championship today

The South Little League will hold its championship game today at 5:30 at Deming Field. The one-game showdown pits Italian American Club against Stevenson's Insurance. The winner will advance to the city championship series. The public is invited to attend this game.

7/27/95



Bob McDonough / Berkshire Eagle Staff

North Adams runner Matt Rodovick slides safely into third as ball eludes Pittsfield North third baseman Josh

7/22/95

■ Little

from C1

Elser, a 12-year-old who had pitched North to a 4-3 win over North Adams last Sunday, was in command on the mound last night. But he was just part of an ensemble cast at the plate in the big third inning, as just about everybody contributed to the eight-run explosion that snapped a 0-0 tie.

Josh McHugh had two singles in the inning, pinch hitter Jason Van Deusen belted a two-run triple and Jeff Quetti ripped a two-run double to highlight the frame, as North collected seven hits in the inning, sending 13 batters to the plate.

"I've been coaching seven years, and this is the best hitting team I've seen," said North coach John Beattie, whose squad totaled 13 hits last night.

With one out in the third, McHugh got things started with a single to left. After Dave Galvagni walked, Quetti ripped a double that rolled to the fence in left center, plating both runners. Elser then singled, and everybody was safe on an infield chopper by Dan Malacarne, loading the bases as Quetti dived back to third to escape a rundown.

Mike Pieropan then plated Quetti with a check-swing single to left, and two more runs scored when Corey Doucette's single to left was mishandled, making it 5-0. After a strikeout, Van Deusen then lofted his triple down the right field line to make it 7-0, and McHugh completed the rally when he singled to score Van Deusen.

Elser in command

Each team scored one run after that, but the damage was done, and Elser wasn't about to let an eight-run lead get away.

"He's got one of the best accuracy counts in the league," Beattie said of his 12-year-old fireballer, who walked only two. His best inning was the second, when a pair of errors enabled North Adams to put runners on first and second with no outs. He bore down and struck out the next three batters.

"They got to us early, and we were flat, exhausted after playing four nights in a row," said North Adams coach Steve Phaneuf, whose team had won a dramatic 10-inning win over defending champion Pittsfield South Thursday to reach the district title game.

'They played their hearts out to get here.'

— Steve Phaneuf

for the first time in North Adams Little League history. "They played their hearts out to get here."

North's final run came in the fifth, when Galvagni singled, stole second and scored on a single by Elser.

North Adams scores

North Adams broke the shutout in the top of the fifth, when Matt Lamb singled to right, went to third on an error and scored on an infield grounder by J.D. Stone.

For Pittsfield North, McHugh, Pieropan and Elser had three hits apiece and Galvagni had two off North Adams pitcher Joel DeMarco, who struck out eight.

"The thing that's so special about this team is that they're so kind, but also so tough when it comes down to it," Beattie said of his squad. "It's a right of passage to manhood when you win and do it with class, and it's beautiful to watch them grow up this way."

McHugh in fifth inning of last night's Little League baseball District 1 championship game.

Hashim's double leads Pittsfield West to victory

Little League 8/12/95

NORTH ADAMS — Pittsfield West provided an improbable encore yesterday in the North Adams age 9-10 Little League double-elimination tournament. West, which scored seven runs in the home sixth to defeat Great Barrington 10-9 on Tuesday, scored twice in the home sixth yesterday to defeat Pittsfield North 5-4 and remain alive in the loser's bracket of the tournament being played at Fallon Field.

Jeff Hashim's dramatic two-run double provided the game-winning runs.

The outlook for the remainder of the tournament appears this way: Today's winner's bracket game between Lee and Adams sends the winner into the championship game scheduled for Saturday at 11 a.m.

Tomorrow's game pits today's loser against Pittsfield West. That winner will advance out of the

loser's bracket to the title game. The team out of the loser's bracket can force an extra game Sunday with a win Saturday.

West took a 3-0 lead in the second when winning pitcher Nick Contenta and Aaron Wyland each scored from third on wild pitches and Mike Massery added an RBI single. North tied the game in the third on a two-run error and Bill Porter's infield hit RBI. North then took a 4-3 lead in the fifth on Sean Donnelly's RBI single.

In the West sixth, Contenta reached on an infield hit and Jake Barbarotta walked prior to Hashim's two-run double.

Brad Shove started for the West, while Chris Brown and Pierce each pitched for North.

Greylock in city final

Little League 8/18/95

PITTSFIELD — Dave Galvagni pitched a two-hitter and struck out 15 last night as Greylock Credit Union of the North League posted a 5-1 win over Civitan of the West League in the opening game of the Pittsfield Little League city championship series at Deming Field.

With its win, Greylock advances to the championship game against South League winner Stevenson Insurance on Sunday at 5:30 at Deming.

Brendan Welteroth pitched a four-hitter and struck out eight for Civitan but was roughed up for three runs in the third inning, when Ryan Beattie's RBI single was the key blow. Beattie had two of Greylock's four hits.

Pittsfield North advances

NORTH ADAMS — Katie Pierce singled to trigger a pair of big innings and earned the win with 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief last night as Pittsfield North scored an 8-5 win over Adams in the North Adams age 9-10 Little League tournament.

Pierce's first single kicked off a four-run first inning, and her second hit sparked a three-run fourth that snapped a 5-5 tie.

North took the lead with its big first inning, when Sean Donnelly's infield single scored one run and an error following Jeff Bashara's single plated two more.

Adams cut it to 4-2 without a hit in the second, helped by three walks, but North made it 5-2 on Steve Papa's RBI single in the bottom of the second. Adams tied it with a run in the third and two more in the fourth, when Chad Misiuk hit a two-run single.

In the North fourth, Pierce hit a

leadoff single, Bill Porter bunted safely and Papa drove in his third run of the game with an infield grounder. Donnelly and Ryan Phillips then each singled in a run.

Pierce, the third North pitcher, gave up two hits and struck out two to get the win. Misiuk took the loss in relief of John Kope-niak.

Pierce, Donnelly and Porter each had two of North's nine hits. Misiuk had two of Adams' four hits, including a double.

Pittsfield West rallies for 10-9 tourney win

Little League

Shove, Nick Contenta and Jeff Hashim each had two hits and Nick Roy and Zach Sondrini doubles for Pittsfield West, which scored one run in the third and two in the fifth. Derek Davis had three hits for Great Barrington, which scored two runs each in the first, third and fifth, and three in the sixth.

Contenta was the winning pitcher, while Andrew Kiriakedes took the loss.

8/19/95

N. Adams stuns Pittsfield South

Five-run 10th gives locals first-ever finals berth, 9-4

By RICK EGGLESTON
Transcript staff

PITTSFIELD — According to folklore, Ali-Baba had 40 thieves in his gang — North Adams coach Steve Phaneuf has 12 of them, and the stickiest fingers in the pack belong to center fielder Matt Lamb.

With two outs and Peter Zanconato getting a great jump off second, Lamb made a reaching off-balance snag to rob Matt Mazzer of an extra-base hit that would have scored Zanconato.

LITTLE LEAGUE

The game-saving ninth inning catch denied defending Little League District I champion Pittsfield South a second consecutive trip to the division finals, as North Adams scored five times in the 10th inning to beat South 9-4.

"How about that catch by Matt Lamb," exclaimed Phaneuf. "That was the game — that saved the day. There was a lot of little plays tonight, but that saved the game."

Phaneuf's team will be making its first-ever appearance in today's District I finals at Pittsfield North Field, where they will mess with Pittsfield North for the title at 5:30.

"No, no, nope — I didn't," acknowledged Phaneuf when asked if he expected his team to beat a dominating South coaching staff that brought last year's team within a game from the Little League World Series.

"We've got no experience at all beyond winning a game or two, and for these kids to hold their character, for Matt (Rodovick) to go out and pitch the way he did these kids never gave up. We're just happy to be here, it (the finals) will be something new for North Adams," Phaneuf said.

Rodovick, the proverbial ace for North Adams on the mound, pitched an emotional gem for nine

full innings to get the win that was nothing short of being a gallant effort.

"The kid is the best pitcher in the county. He knows how to take control of himself as far as pitching," Phaneuf said.

A pensive, serious look remained on Rodovick's face throughout every trot on and off the mound despite constant encouragement from Phaneuf to smile. With his team ahead by five runs, Rodovick finally cracked a smile with two outs in the bottom of the tenth at his position at first base after handing things over to reliever Bryan Borowski.

South surprised Rodovick with two runs in the first, behind three consecutive hits from Dan Gross, Mazzer and Dom Dastoli. Gross tripled and Mazzer doubled scoring Gross, while Dastoli hit plated Mazzer.

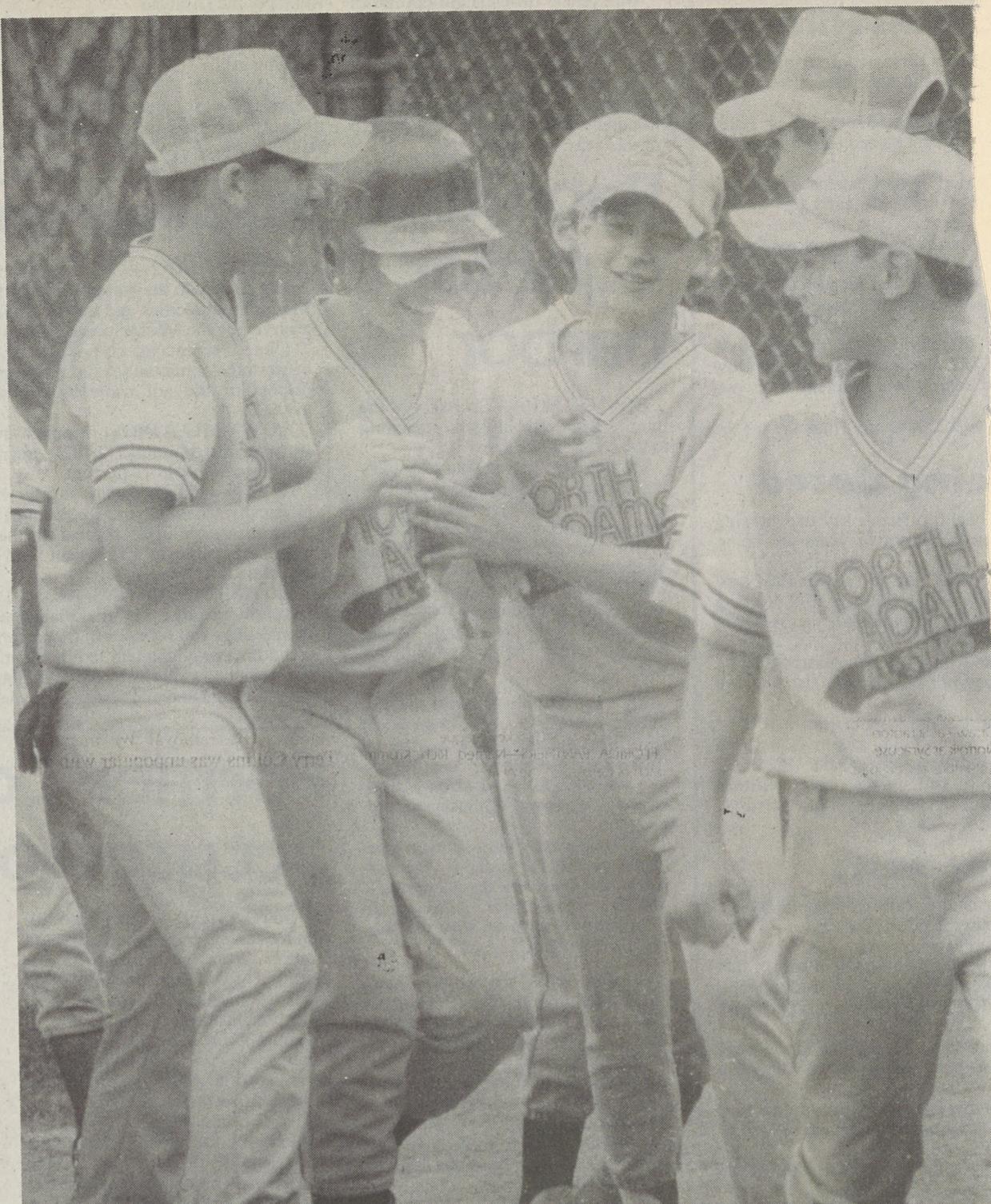
South starter Craig LeDuc cruised through the first three innings, facing just one extra batter in the second when John Cooper tripled. Meanwhile, North Adams batters came out flat, hitting short grounders and striking out on baffling LeDuc pitches that had everyone coming around late.

"We were dead (offensively and defensively) in the first two innings. I told them after you have come ready to play 18 outs," Phaneuf said.

J.D. Stone was on after roping a single to left in the fourth, reaching second on a passed ball. Two-outs later Mark Gazaille led off to left scoring Stone, while Cooper was on with bunt down the line. Marcel Potvin capped the three-run, two-out rally, hitting a 2-2 pitch into right-center, plating both Gazaille and Cooper to give North Adams a 3-2 edge.

South coach Brian Jones saw enough of LeDuc and called on right-hander Adam L'Hote to take things over in the top of the fourth. L'Hote's first pitch left the park as

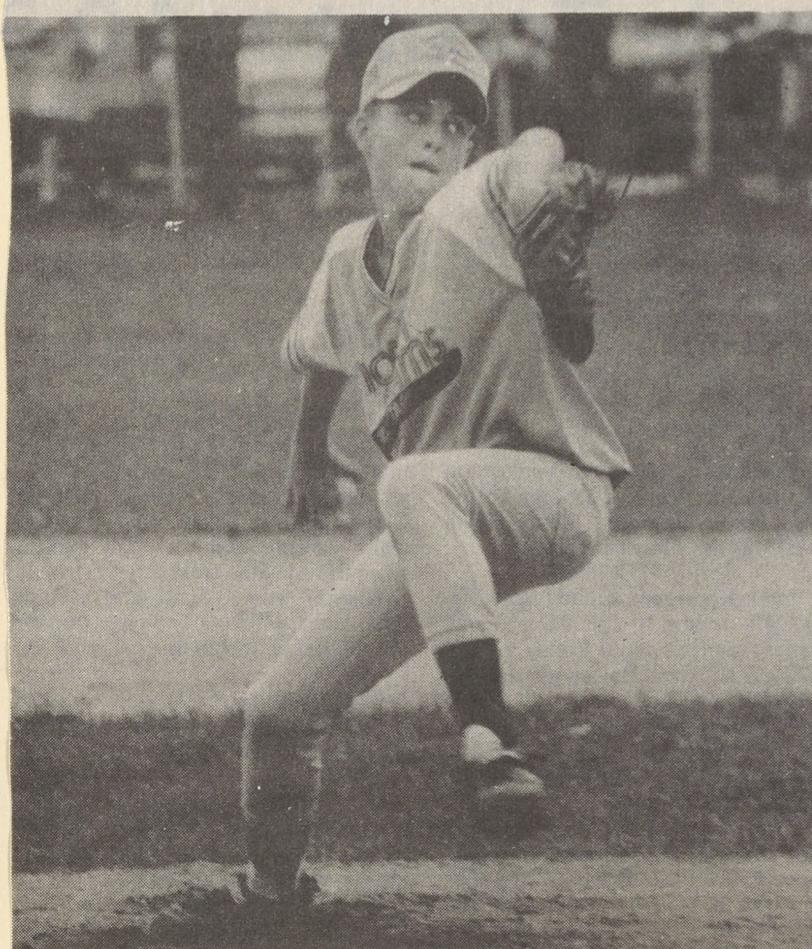
See Stuns, Page 14



North Adams' Bryan Borowski is greeted at home by Mark Gazaille, left, and Chris DeSanty after smashing a solo home run to lead off the fourth inning Thursday. (Transcript - Rick Eggleston)

7/21/95

4—The Transcript, Friday, July 21, 1995



North Adams' right-hander Matt Rodovick fires a delivery to the plate Thursday. Rodovick went nine innings, striking out 13. (Transcript - Rick Eggleston)

Stuns

(Continued from Page 12)

quickly as it left his hand on a lead-off. Borowski solo-shot that sailed over the right field-fence, making it 4-2.

L'Hote allowed two more to reach, including hitting Stone in the elbow with a 1-1 pitch before Jones was forced to bring in number three pitcher Josh Shepard. Shepard recorded seven of the 11 total strikeouts issued by the South staff, closing out five innings of work to take the loss.

Rodovick settled on the mound to retire South in order in the fourth and fifth innings, accounting for two of the outs in each of the innings on strikeouts. After Zanconato doubled to lead-off the third, Rodovick came back to fanned next three to escape unscathed.

But South staged a last-ditch, three-hit comeback in its last at bat to tie the game at 4-4, rattling Rodovick and starting a brand new ballgame.

Phaneuf went out to the mound and gave Rodovick a choice: "I went and told Matt 'I have to take you out right now the way you are (pitching), keep your composure and settle down, you can do it, you've been in these situations be-

fore,'" Phaneuf said.

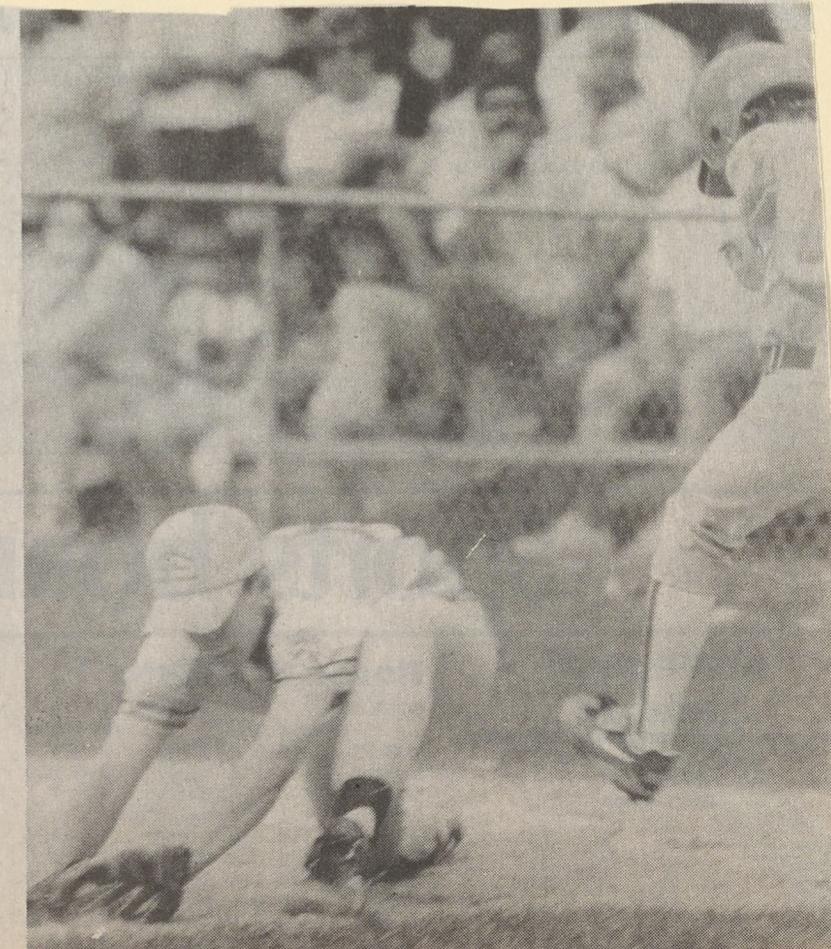
Whatever it was Phaneuf did it worked, as Rodovick remained in to fan Adam L'Hote, ending the stanza.

In the extra frames Rodovick relied on Lamb and a host of others, wiggling his way out of a close seventh by striking out the last batter he faced in the inning with runners on second and third. Rodovick fanned 12 on the day, while issuing just one walk.

Consecutive hits in the tenth won it for North Adams. Rodovick singled, Stone doubled for his third hit on the day and Joel DeMarco had a bunt single, loading the bases for Cooper. Cooper responded, smacking a 2-2 pitch down the third-base line, scoring Rodovick.

It was all North Adams would need — but not all they would get as Borowski walked to force home a run and Lamb was hit by a pitch to score another before an error plated the final two runs on the rally.

Multiple hitters included Stone who went 3-for-5, Cooper who went 3-for-5 with an RBI and Potvin who turned in a 2-for-5 effort good for three RBI.



North Adams' first baseman Joel DeMarco stretches to record an out at first on a throw from shortstop Chris DeSanty. (Transcript - Rick Eggleston)

Little League tourney kicks off next weekend

7/11/95
Defending champion Pittsfield South will head the field when the annual District 1 (Berkshire County) Little League baseball tournament kicks off next weekend.

Pittsfield North plays Adams on Saturday, July 9, at 5:30 at Pittsfield North field in the opener of the double-elimination tournament. Other teams in the 13-team field include Pittsfield West, Cheshire, North Adams, Lanesboro, Lenox, Williamstown, Great Barrington, Berkshire Hills, Dalton and Lee.

All games will be played at the Pittsfield North and Pittsfield

South fields.

Other first-round games will be Sunday, July 9, with Cheshire vs. North Adams and South vs. Lenox at Pittsfield South, and Lanesboro vs. West and Williamstown vs. Great Barrington at Pittsfield North. Sunday's doubleheaders begin at noon. Berkshire Hills, Dalton and Lee have first-round byes.

The tournament will continue through July 24, with a championship finale July 25 if the unbeaten team loses the day before.

The winner will have the chance to advance to subsection and sectional play, then the state tournament Aug. 4-5 in Beverly.

Three teams advance to LL quarterfinals

PITTSFIELD — North Adams, Lee and Williamstown posted victories at Clapp Park yesterday to advance to the quarterfinals of the District 1 ages 9- and 10-year-old Little League Jimmy Fund Tournament.

North Adams nipped Pittsfield 2-1, Lee defeated Pittsfield South Red 7-1, while Williamstown topped Lenox 14-2 in a game that was stopped after four innings because of the 12-run mercy rule.

In Saturday's games, Berkshire Hills nipped Pittsfield West Blue 20-19, Cheshire beat Pittsfield South Gray 10-3, Adams defeated Pittsfield West White 14-9, and Dalton-Hinsdale topped Lanesboro 14-2 in four innings.

With the victories, Berkshire Hills, Cheshire, Adams and Dalton-Hinsdale also advance to the quarterfinals.

The losers will play in consolation games on Sunday, July 31,

and Monday, Aug. 1.

Curtis Gazaille singled in Nick Randall, who had tripled, with the winning run with one out in the bottom of the sixth to give North Adams its 2-1 victory over Pittsfield North. Adam Garner and Randall each had two hits for North Adams.

Sean Donnelly singled in Katie Pierce in the first with Pittsfield North's lone run. Jesse Boillat was the winning pitcher, while Billy Porter took the loss.

Lee led Pittsfield South Red 2-1 until the fifth, when the winners scored five runs to blow the game open. Brian Solice's two run double was Lee's big hit in the fifth. Lee's winning pitcher Chris Walker and starter Anthony Patterson held Pittsfield South Red to one hit — Conor Storie's single in the fourth. Storie also scored Pittsfield South Red's lone run on

Little League

a steal of home. Matt Ward was the losing pitcher.

Greg Holland had two hits and three RBIs, and Eddie Rich a single and two RBIs for Williamstown, which scored five runs in the second, seven in the third and two in the fourth. Henry Baily was the winning pitcher. Chris Burton took the loss for Lenox.

Saturday's Games

Trailing 19-17 heading into the bottom of the sixth, Berkshire Hills scored three runs on passed balls to beat Pittsfield West Blue. Brye Salatino had two hits for Berkshire Hills. Darrin Korte was the winning pitcher. Brad Shove had two hits for Pittsfield West Blue. Tony Massimiano took the loss.

7/24/95

North Adams reaches championship game

PITTSFIELD — Ryan Belanger and Nick Randall each doubled in two runs as North Adams defeated Adams 15-3 at Clapp Park yesterday to advance to the District 1 Little League Jimmy Fund ages 9-10 Tournament championship game.

North Adams will play Great Barrington for the championship at 5:30 tomorrow. Great Barrington advanced to the championship with an 8-1 semifinal victory over Cheshire Saturday.

In consolation games yesterday, Pittsfield North blanked Pittsfield South Red 12-0 in a game that was called after four innings because of the 12-run mercy rule. Pittsfield South Gray edged Pittsfield West White 9-7 in the other consolation game.

In yesterday's semifinal, Adams scored one run in the top of the first on Chad Misiuk's triple and two in the second on a bases-loaded walk and fielder's choice to take a 3-0 lead.

North Adams then exploded for nine runs in the bottom of the second. Kevin Lamb singled in two runs for North Adams, while Belanger hit his two-run double. North Adams completed the scor-

Little League

ing with six runs in the fifth. Randall's two-run double was the offensive highlight.

Jesse Baillat had two hits for North Adams. Lamb was the winning pitcher, while Mitch Belanger took the loss.

Pittsfield North held Pittsfield South Red to two hits. Starter and winner Billy Porter threw three perfect innings and struck out six. Pittsfield North scored one run in the first, four in the second, two in the third and five in the fourth. Steve Ray was the losing pitcher.

In the other consolation game, Pittsfield South Gray led 3-2 after three innings, took a 9-3 lead with a six-run fourth, then held off Pittsfield West White's five run rally in the sixth.

Huck Correia had a single and double for Pittsfield West White. Shane Perrault and Matt Terrell had singles for Pittsfield South Gray. Terrell had an RBI.

Winning pitcher Eric Kushi also doubled for Pittsfield South Gray. Nick Ray was the losing pitcher.

7/31/95



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Pittsfield North catcher Ryan Beattie looks dejected during Westfield South's eight-run second inning in last night's state District 1 and 2 Little League championship game at Deming Field.

7/29/95

■ Little from C1

Pittsfield North got one run back in the third when Quetti doubled down the right-field line to score Dan Nolan, who had walked. But St. Jean struck out five consecutive batters between the third and fifth to keep Pittsfield North in a hole.

"We practiced all week against fastball pitchers," Beattie said. "But I think maybe what happened was we had a scrimmage with a pitcher last night who was not as fast, and I think that might have hurt us."

"They took us by surprise in the second, and then we had to scratch to get back in."

After Westfield South made it 9-

1 with an unearned run in the fourth, St. Jean began to tire in the top of the fifth. Pittsfield North loaded the bases on Joel Brunelle's walk, Corey Doucette's fielder's choice and Galvagni's single. St. Jean then walked Quetti, Dan Malecarne and Mike Pieropan with the bases loaded to force in three runs and bring Pittsfield within 9-4.

"He ran out of gas," Melo said of St. Jean.

But St. Jean and Rheaume had run-scoring singles off Pittsfield North relief pitcher Ryan Elser in the bottom of the frame to put Westfield South up 11-4.

Pittsfield North scored its final run in the top of the sixth off Westfield South relief pitcher Mike Kwarciany. Brunelle stole home on the front end of a double steal after Doucette had walked.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Westfield South's Brian Maccio slides across home plate to score in the second inning as the ball gets away from Pittsfield North catcher Ryan Beattie in the state District 1 and 2 Little League championship game at Deming Field last night. Westfield South won 11-5.

7/29/95

Pittsfield North is eliminated

8-run inning sparks Westfield South in 11-5 victory

By Tony Dobrowolski
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — If it wasn't for the second inning of yesterday's state District 1 and 2 Little League championship game, the Pittsfield North All-Stars' season might not be over.

Unfortunately for Pittsfield North, Westfield South scored eight runs in the second, four of them on Dan Rheaume's grand slam, and went on to win 11-5 at Deming Field.

Winning pitcher Mike St. Jean limited Pittsfield North's comeback attempts, allowing two hits in five innings while striking out 10. Jeff Quetti's run-scoring double in the third and David Galvagni's single in the fifth were Pittsfield North's only hits.

Mike Sullivan had three hits and Rheaume and St. Jean two hits to pace Westfield South's 10 hit attack. Rheaume also had five RBIs.

"The eight-run inning killed us," Pittsfield North coach John Beattie said. "We were a little tentative with the bats. They had the big inning. That's the way baseball goes."

Westfield South will play the winner of today's game between the District 3 and 4 champions at Cross Street Field in Westfield on Monday for the right to go to the state Little League tournament.

Little League Playoffs

The state tournament takes place in Beverly next weekend.

Westfield South won a coin flip and chose to bat second.

After a scoreless first inning, Westfield South's Brad Zepko walked, then scored when Nick Annino doubled for the winner's first hit. Annino went to third on the throw to the plate and scored when Brian Moccio followed with a single to put Westfield South up 2-0.

Walks to Keith Cohen and Mike Sullivan loaded the bases. A fielder's choice and single scored two more runs to put Westfield South up 4-0 before Rheaume followed with his grand slam. The ball cleared the fence in left center and went to the top row of the bleachers, where it was caught by a fan roughly 220 feet from home plate.

"We've only hit one other homer this year," Westfield South coach John Melo said. "I thought that was a bad omen."

LITTLE, continued on C3



Bob McDonough / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Ryan Elser, with glove, gets rousing welcome from Pittsfield North teammates after pitching a three-hitter in last night's 9-1 win over North Adams in the District 1 final.

Pittsfield North wins title

Eight-run inning sparks 9-1 final in Little League

By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

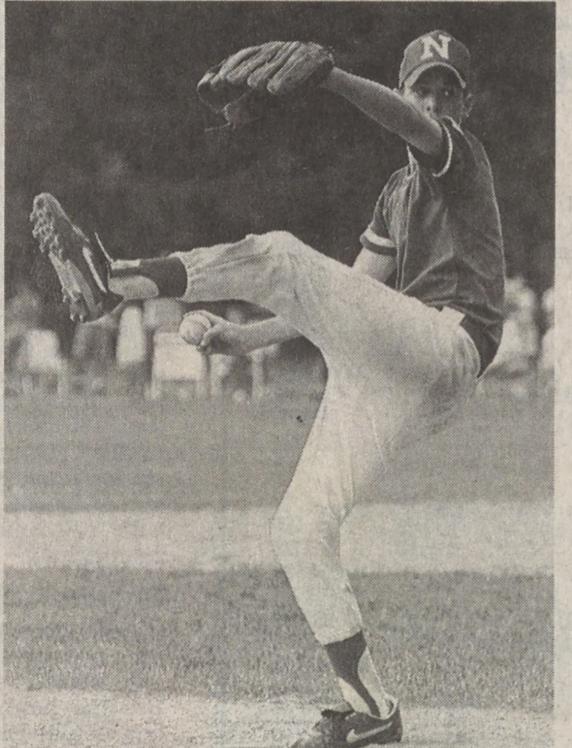
PITTSFIELD — An eight-run third inning and the strong right arm of Ryan Elser carried the Pittsfield North to its first District 1 (Berkshire County) Little League championship in nine years yesterday, with a 9-1 victory over North Adams at Deming Field.

Elser, a 5-foot-10 right-hander, struck out 11 North Adams batters for the second time in six days en route to a three-hitter, as Pittsfield North completed an unbeaten run through the district tournament.

Pittsfield North, which went 5-0 in the district tournament, will next play against the District 2 winner in a sub-sectional tournament game Friday at 5:30 at Deming Field. The winner of that game goes to the sectional final July 31 at Cross Street Field in Westfield. The winner of that game becomes one of the final four in the state tournament Aug. 4-5 in Beverly. North won the state title in 1986.

7/22/95

LITTLE, continued on C3



Bob McDonough / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Ryan Elser
High kick and a winning fastball for North.

Barrington moves ^{7/30/95} into Pittsfield final

PITTSFIELD — Josh Rolf and Travis Roger each had two hits, while pitchers Derek Davis and Andrew Kiciakedes combined on a one-hitter as Great Barrington beat Cheshire 8-1 at Clapp Park yesterday in the semifinals of the District 1 age 9-10 Jimmy Fund Little League tournament.

Great Barrington will face the winner of today's semifinal between North Adams and Adams in the championship game at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. North Adams defeated Williamstown 12-5 in the quarterfinals Friday night.

In a consolation game yesterday, Dalton-Hinsdale scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth to nip Pittsfield West Blue 14-13.

Little League

In yesterday's semifinal, Cheshire took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when Adam Poplaski scored on a passed ball. But Great Barrington tied it in the bottom of the first, went up 3-1 with two runs in the second, added a single run in the third to take a 4-1 edge, then completed the scoring with four runs in the fourth.

Kiciakedes, who relieved winning pitcher Derek Davis, struck out eight of the nine batters he faced. Ryan Mange had Cheshire's lone hit, a single in the second.

In yesterday's consolation game, Dalton-Hinsdale scored the winning run with one out in the bottom of the sixth on Caleb Mackey's bases-loaded walk.

In Friday night's game, North Adams scored nine runs in the first and Williamstown was unable to overcome the advantage. Adam Garner had a single and triple and two RBIs for North Adams, while Jeff Bourdon had two hits and two RBIs. Jesse Bollat and Nick Randall also had two hits for the winners. Kevin Lamb was the winning pitcher.

Rob Scrivens, Henry Bailey, Damon George and Ryan Tonbreau had Williamstown's four hits, all of them singles. Bailey took the loss.

Today's semifinal game begins at noon. In consolation games today, Pittsfield North plays Pittsfield South Red at 2 p.m., and Pittsfield South Gray takes on Pittsfield West White at 4 p.m.

Lenox will play Lanesboro in a consolation game tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.

Galvagni ^{7/19/95} leads North in opener

PITTSFIELD — Dave Galvagni struck out 14 batters, belted a home run and drove in three runs yesterday as the Pittsfield North all-stars kicked off the District 1 (Berkshire County) Little League tournament with a 9-2 win over Adams at the Pittsfield North field.

Little League

Galvagni hit a solo homer and Mark Pieropan a three-run blast in a four-run first inning for North. Josh McHugh delivered a two-run single during a three-run second inning, and Galvagni's two-run single made it 9-0 in the fourth.

Galvagni pitched a six-hitter, walking four.

Galvagni, Pieropan, McHugh and Ryan Elser each had two hits to lead Pittsfield's 11-hit attack.

For Adams, losing pitcher Robert Crouse went the first four innings and delivered three of his team's six hits.

The double-elimination tournament resumes with four games today, doubleheaders at both Pittsfield North (Brown Street Field) and Pittsfield South (Deming Field). At North, Lanesboro plays Pittsfield West at noon, followed by Williamstown vs. Great Barrington. At South, Cheshire plays North Adams at noon, followed by Pittsfield South vs. Lenox.

Pittsfield North advances to a winner's bracket game tomorrow at 5:30 against Berkshires Hills. That game will be played at Pittsfield North, a change from the original schedule.

74.
Pittsfield Minor League sign-ups

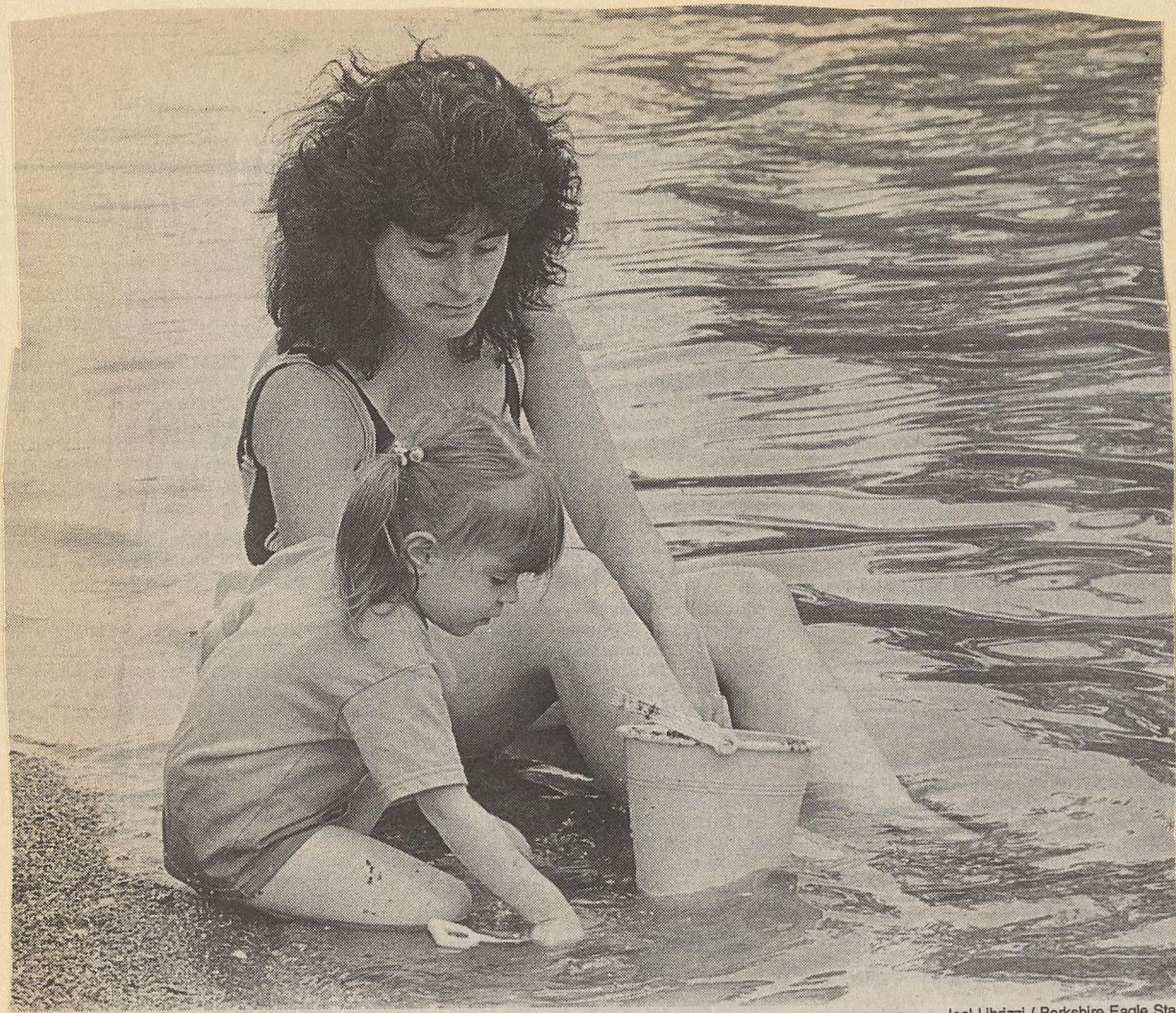
The Minor League of Pittsfield will conduct registration for its upcoming baseball season from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 25, through Monday, March 27, at the Peck's Road, Holmes Road and West Housatonic Street fire stations. Boys and girls ages 8 to 12 are eligible to sign up.

3-14-95

Pittsfield Minor League sets raffle

The Pittsfield Minor League baseball program is conducting a holiday raffle to raise funds for the 1996 season. First prize is \$200, followed by \$100 for second, \$75 for third, \$50 for fourth and \$25 for fifth and sixth. The drawing is scheduled Dec. 15.

10/21/95



**Pittsfield Parks Dept.
seeks lifeguards 6/29/95**

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Parks & Recreation has announced that it is still in need of lifeguards for the 1995 summer season.

Information and applications may be obtained at the department's office at 874 North St.

Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

6/11/95

Mother-daughter time

A pail, shovel and lots of refreshing water are all that Melanie Rowe, 3, and her mother, Judy, needed to beat the heat yesterday at Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield.

Burbank Park falls on hard times

By Donna B. Mattoon
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — One of the sorriest sights in Pittsfield these days is the old beach and picnic grove at Burbank Park, which was once teeming with children and families all summer long.

The litter, vandalism and sheer destruction take place in the foreground of one of the city's most breathtaking vistas — Onota Lake and its surrounding mountains.

Dirt bikes, motorcycles and even cars have driven illegally into the picnic grove, carving deep trails into the ground and causing an erosion problem.

Worse, people appear to come with picnics and just leave everything behind. Yesterday, all the paper and bottle products associated with several picnics were found scattered throughout the grove. Dirty diapers, old socks and evidence of campfires littered the area.

'There's not too many people who use the lake anymore, and those that do are running wild.'

Despite the depressing surroundings, fishermen fished peacefully off the shore and couples strolled through the cool, shaded grove.

"It's gotten a lot worse," said Betty Johnston. "There's not too many people who use the lake anymore, and those that do are running wild."

Conditions are better closer to the new beach and bathhouse located farther north along the shoreline. Nonetheless, they are far from perfect.

Dean Bickford remembered a time when Onota Lake and its environs were glorious. He's planning a party at the public beach on Saturday in honor of his fiancee's graduation from Berkshire Community College, and he's invited out-of-town relatives.

"I told them it was lovely here," he said. Just to make sure, Bickford checked out the site a few days ago and found it was anything but. Dead fish and piles of weed littered the shore, and people had to literally step over the pungent weeds to wade into the water.

Bickford said he called the Park Department to see what could be done and was given a crash course in the realities of the parks these days; they have taken budget hits over the years, they have a reduced staff, and they need to get ball fields ready this time of year.

So Bickford has been cleaning the



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Once well maintained, Burbank Park on Onota Lake is falling victim to litter, vandalism and a pruned-down city work force.

beach himself to get ready for the party.

"People just don't care anymore," said Lisa L'Italian, who was sunning with a friend at the beach. "It's gotten so bad that people just give up."

But City Councilors Joseph O. Guzzo and Ben J. Kaplan haven't given up. In fact, they are just starting. The two have proposed a massive upgrade of the park at a cost that has yet to be determined.

Their plan has been sent to John C. Marchesi, the director of recreation for the Department of Parks and Recreation, who will report back to the City Council with an implementation plan, milestone

dates and a request for an appropriation.

One of the cornerstones of the Guzzo-Kaplan proposal is to begin charging fees to use the park. They have suggested a schedule of \$4 per car for nonresidents; \$2 for residents, or a \$20 annual pass.

I was appalled'

Several of the city councilors are against the idea of fees.

In any event, Guzzo of Ward 7 has spent the last few years on the City Council fighting for whatever improvement Pittsfield could manage at the park. Kaplan is a recent convert to the bandwagon.

"I was appalled," he said, referring to a recent visit to the park. "The open container law was being broken all over the place. There was broken glass, unleashed animals, no security and no guards."

Kaplan and Guzzo said they believe the solution is to restore the park, set up a gate and charge admission fees that can be used to finance security and other services.

"Burbank Park is a major resource," Guzzo said. "It needs to be put back on the road to recovery so that it can be returned to the citizens of Pittsfield."

6-22-95

Junior football ticket sale Saturday 9/16/95

The Pittsfield Junior Football League will hold its annual season ticket sale Saturday starting at 10 a.m. All league players and coaches will participate in the door-to-door campaign. Players can be identified by their football jerseys.

Drivers are needed, and all parents wishing to volunteer their help should report to the Pittsfield Common warming house on First Street by 9:30 a.m.

The league will open Saturday, Sept. 16, for the B Division at Reid School field, while the A Division opens Sept. 17 at Wahconah Park.

Pittsfield Jr. football registration

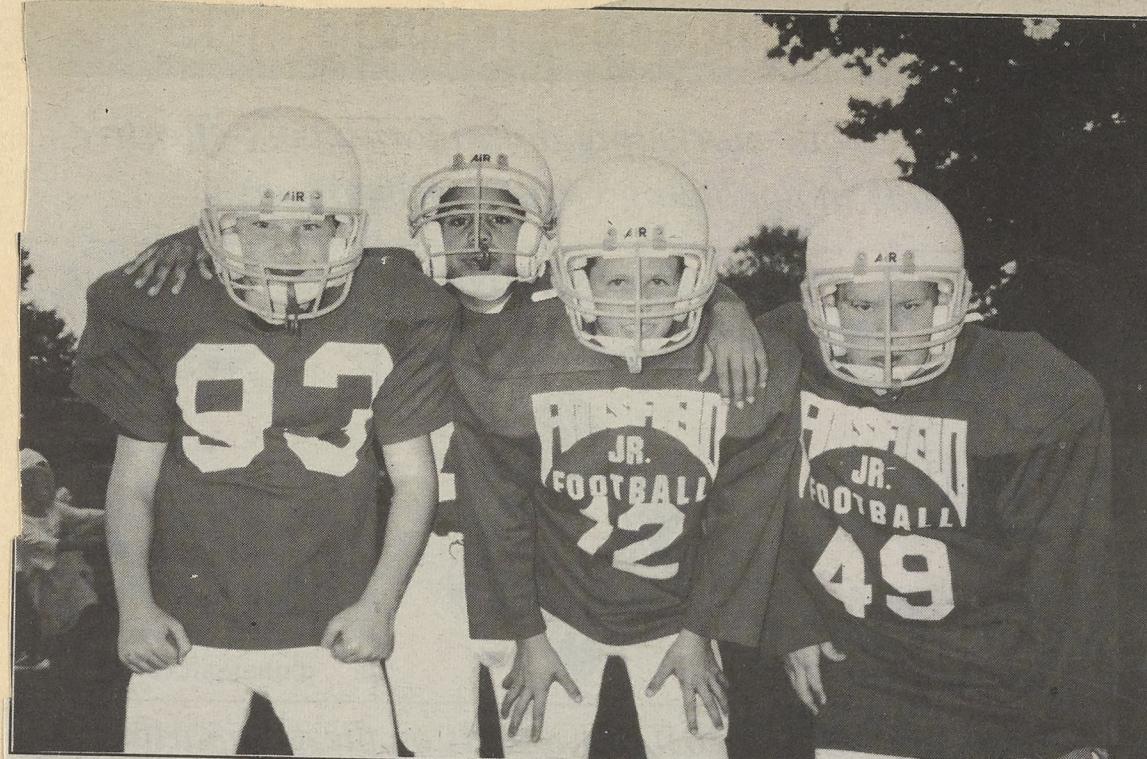
Registration for the Pittsfield Junior Football League will begin Monday and Tuesday between 6 and 7:30 p.m. at the Common warming house on First Street. Any youngster who will be 9 years old but not more than 13 on Sept. 1 is eligible to register. All former players must register this year.

Tryouts will begin Aug. 21 at 6 at the Common on First Street, and new candidates must attend at least half of them to be selected. All candidates will be placed on a team. Players must obtain a medical waiver from a family physician in order to play in the junior league.

Each player will be assessed a \$10 equipment fee upon registration and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. New players must bring a birth certificate.

The season will run from Sept. 16 to Oct. 21. For more information, one should call 499-9343.

8-11-85



An imposing line of Pittsfield Junior Football League players: Geoffrey Mitchell, Jonathan Dillanveux, Andrew Wells and Bill Kingston.

This Week's Highlights

TENPIN BOWLING

► Tow more 300 games were chalked up at Cove Lanes in Great Barrington, by Tony Delmaso and by Joe Storti, whose perfect game helped lead to a 751 series.

► In addition to Tom Szpila's 814 series reported earlier, there were six 700 series last week at Ken's Bowl. Gary Munson led the way with 736 in the OME, Rob Connor had 729 in the Utility, Vic Bertolozzi 728 and Frank Algerio 704 in the Tosc Chiropractic, Reno Albertazzi 706 in the Flynn-Turnbull and Mark Chrostowski 703 in the Pop Savino.

CANDLEPIN BOWLING

► Joe Duda had the week's only 400, a 406 in the Berkshire Men's League at Candle Lanes. In the same league, Gordon Pomeroy had a 397, including a 166 game in which he had two double strikes in a 109 first half.

FOOTBALL

► Luis Hoose continued his rampage in the Pittsfield Junior League, scoring five touchdowns on runs of 1, 47 and 24 yards, a 60-yard pass reception and a 70-yard kickoff return to lead the Rams to a 32-0 win over the Lions.

SOCER

► Courtney Shepard totalled six goals in four victories by the Pittsfield under-12 girls' team in the Southwick Youth Tournament.

Youth Football

PITTSFIELD JUNIORS

Browns def. Giants 22-6. Browns — Bryan Welch 50-yard and 10-yard TD runs, 2-point conversion run, Chris Surdi 18-yard TD pass to Joshua Johns, Ryan Mauer 2-point conversion run. Giants — Mike Weller 45-yard TD pass to Chris Flynn.

Rams def. Lions 32-0. Rams — Luis Hoose 50-yard touch-downs, runs of 24, 1, and 47 yards, 70-yard kickoff return and 60-yard pass from Doug Ladouceur.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY JUNIORS

Dalton def. North Adams 22-8. Dalton — Paul Capitano 5-yard TD run, 15-yard TD reception from Morgan Russell, conversion; Randy Russell 8-yard TD run, Jake McCormick 10-yard TD run, Gary Robert 50-yard TD run, Don Girard 2-point conversion.

Lee def. Adams 28-24. Lee — Joe Allier 50-yard TD pass from Mike Burti, 60-yard TD pass from Burti, 50-yard TD pass from Aaron Wade, conversion; Aaron Wade 55-yard TD pass from Burti, Adam Tribula conversion, Jeff Catan interception, Corey Beckwith 10 tackles, Adams — Joe Milesi 15-yard TD run, 3 conversions, 2 fumble recoveries, 100 yards rushing; Lee Bessett 40-yard TD pass from Milesi, Matt Pard 10-yard TD run, Randy Burdick interception.

Lanesboro def. South Berkshire 28-14. Lanesboro — Jeff Ryan 55-yard TD reception and 45-yard TD reception from Andy Kirakedes; Joe Andermann 35-yard TD run, conversion; Brian Cardillo 8-yard TD run, conversion; Kirakedes conversion, Joe Barrett and Josh Roff fumble recoveries; Lanesboro — Sean Donnelly 45-yard and 50-yard TD run, Danny Marsh fumble recovery, Mike Rathbun forced fumble, 100 yards rushing.

Dalton Blue def. Cheshire 18-6. Dalton — Brad Shove 2 TD runs, one of 50 yards; Caleb Mackey 40-yard TD run, Cheshire — Adam Popaski TD.

Standings: Dalton 4-0, South Berkshire 4-0, Dalton Blue 3-1, Adams Jets 2-1, Cheshire 2-2, North Adams 1-2, Adams Bears 0-3, Lanesboro 0-3, Lee 0-4.

Standings: Dalton 3-0, Lanesboro 3-0, North Adams 2-1, Cheshire 1-2, South Berkshire 1-3, Lee 1-3, Adams 1-3.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY PEE WEE

Dalton White def. North Adams 26-20. Dalton — Shane Brennan 20-yard TD pass reception, 30-yard TD run, Eric Fitzgerald 44-yard TD run; Sean Regan 10-yard TD run, conversion; Kevin Wallo conversion, Nick Lewis fumble recovery, North Adams — Joel Habel 90-yard TD run, conversion; Matt Zier 31-yard TD pass to Adam Garner; Chris Cahon 53-yard TD run; Jimmy Malloy 12 tackles, Joe Beverly fumble recovery.

Adams Jets def. Lee 16-6. Adams — Donny Carlow 10-yard TD run, 15-yard TD reception; Mike Malloy 2 conversions, Mike Bodwell 9 tackles, Owen Taylor and Tom Bradbury interceptions. Lee — Tommy Keenan 40-yard TD run, Jason Hopkins 8 tackles.

South Berkshire def. Lanesboro 30-14. S. Berkshire — Ryan Shimmon 55-yard TD reception and 45-yard TD reception from Andy Kirakedes; Joe Andermann 35-yard TD run, conversion; Brian Cardillo 8-yard TD run, conversion; Kirakedes conversion, Joe Barrett and Josh Roff fumble recoveries; Lanesboro — Sean Donnelly 45-yard and 50-yard TD run, Danny Marsh fumble recovery, Mike Rathbun forced fumble, 100 yards rushing.

Dalton Blue def. Cheshire 18-6. Dalton — Brad Shove 2 TD runs, one of 50 yards; Caleb Mackey 40-yard TD run, Cheshire — Adam Popaski TD.

Standings: Dalton White 4-0, South Berkshire 4-0, Dalton Blue 3-1, Adams Jets 2-1, Cheshire 2-2, North Adams 1-2, Adams Bears 0-3, Lanesboro 0-3, Lee 0-4.

10/16/95

Football 10/12/95

PITTSFIELD JUNIORS

Rams def. Browns 38-0. Rams — Luis Hoose 38-yard TD run, 54-yard TD run, 25-yard fumble recovery for a TD; Doug Ladouceur 74-yard TD run, 2-point conversion run; Herring 30-yard TD run; AJ Roy and Warren Garritt each had a 2-point conversion run.

Giants def. Lions 18-6. Giants — Chris Flynn 14-yard TD run, 22-yard TD run, Mike Weller 4-yard TD run, Lions — Steve Wixson 5-yard TD pass to Pat Mack.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE

Pee Wee

Adams Jets def. North Adams 6-0. Adams Jets — Mike Bodwell 10-yard TD run, fumble recovery; Donny Carlow 2-point conversion, fumble recovery.

South Berkshire def. Cheshire 28-14. South Berkshire — Brett Shove 40-yard TD run, 70-yard kickoff return TD, interception; Brian Cardillo 8-yard TD run, conversion; Joey Andermann 50-yard TD run; Steve Jimenez conversion, Josh Wolf interception, Joe Barrett fumble recovery, Cheshire — Brent Malcolm 15-yard TD run, David Paquette 5-yard TD run, conversion pass to Jesse Soldo; Jason Baumann interception, Eric Morin fumble recovery.

Dalton Blue def. Lanesboro 26-0. Dalton Blue — Jesse Salvatore, Mike Mackey each scored a touchdown, Lanesboro — Kyle Marcelli fumble recovery, John Guest fumble recovery.

Lee def. Adams Bears 12-8. Lee — Billy Newton 75-yard punt return TD, Jimmie Pleu 70-yard kickoff return TD, Adams Bears — Chad Misnik 17-yard TD run, 114 yards rushing, interception; Chris Kordana two fumble recoveries.

Standings — South Berkshire 5-0, Dalton White 4-0, Dalton Blue 4-1, Adams Jets 3-1, Cheshire 2-3, North Adams 1-3, Adams Bears 1-3, Lanesboro 0-4, Lee 0-4.

North Adams def. Adams Saints 20-14. North Adams — Donny Girard 65-yard TD run, 75-yard TD run; Gary Roppe 1-yard TD run, Lee Bessett conversion, Josh Habel interception, Jimmy Cieplak interception, Chris Peters fumble recovery, Adams Saints — Joe Milesi 2 TD's, 109 yards rushing; Matt Pard 10-yard fumble recovery, Randy Burdick fumble recovery.

Cheshire def. South Berkshire 32-6. Cheshire — Ricky Martel 3 TD runs of 41, 3, and 11 yards; Ed St. John 4-yard TD run, Matt Larabee 7-yard TD run, Chris Gwiazdowski conversion, South Berkshire — Jamie Thompson 25-yard TD run, C.B. McGarry fumble recovery.

Lanesboro def. Dalton 22-8. Lanesboro — Dan Nolan 20-yard TD run, 30-yard TD run, fumble recovery; E.J. Derby two conversions, Matt Woolver touchown, Sam Jenkins fumble recovery, Dalton — Josh Bates 30-yard TD run, Paul Capitano conversion.

Standings — Lanesboro 4-0, Dalton 3-1, North Adams 3-1, Cheshire 2-2, Lee 1-3, Adams 1-4, South Berkshire 1-4.

10/12/95

FOOTBALL

► Luis Hoose made it eight touchdowns in two weeks for the Rams in the Pittsfield Junior League, scoring three touchdowns last Sunday on runs of 38 and 54 yards and a 25-yard fumble recovery in a 38-0 win over the Browns.

► Ricky Martel scored three touchdowns, on runs of 41, 11 and 3 yards to lead the Cheshire Juniors to a 32-6 win over South Berkshire.

10/12/95

Jr. grid league Las Vegas night Friday

The Pittsfield Junior Football League will host a Las Vegas night Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Itam Lodge. Proceeds will help pay for football equipment. Door prizes and refreshments will be offered.

10/12/95

See FOOTBALL

page 9

9/14/95